

23 MAR 1996

Mohamed-Umno

DON'T USE TOP TWO LEADERS' NAMES IN CAMPAIGNS, SAYS MOHAMED

MUAR, March 23 (Bernama) -- All candidates contesting for posts in the Umno general assembly in October were today reminded not to use the names of the top two leaders to garner votes.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said a person should not do this if he wanted to be a popular leader.

If they used the names of the "Number One" (president) and "Number Two" (deputy president) it showed that they were weak leaders with no integrity, he told reporters after calling on Umno permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah with Umno headquarters staff at his house, here, in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidil Fitri.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said it was not fair to use the names of party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in the elections when they did not know about it and had not given their blessings.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said he was giving the reminder in view that it had become a habit among some candidates to claim affiliation to the "Number One" or "Number Two" man in campaigning for the elections.

On money politics, he said money politics and abuse of power should not occur anymore as the matter had been hotly debated at the general assembly in 1993.

"In this matter, the person who gives and the one who receives should be responsible. If we are really sincere, we don't give or receive," he said.

Describing it as a moral problem, Mohamed said Umno was working to inculcate noble values for the well-being of the party, race and country.

"We fear that if it becomes common to receive bribes from those in power, people can buy our power. In the long run it would endanger Umno and destroy future party leaders," he said.

He said that today the people still respected, supported and listened to Umno leaders but if the problem of corruption was not overcome they would no longer do so and Umno would be rejected by the people.

Mohamed also reminded all Umno divisions that will be meeting soon to nominate Dr Mahathir and Anwar as president and deputy president respectively although there would be no contest for the two posts.

Nominations were necessary although the supreme council had agreed that they retain their posts until 1999, he said. -- Bernama

MKO JK