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Mahathir-Kelantan

UMNO MT DIRECTS FOUR KELANTAN EXCOS TO RESIGN

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council (MT) which met tonight directed the four Kelantan State Executive Councillors to resign from their respective posts.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the directive was made since there was no cooperation between Umno and PAS.

For this reason, they cannot be in a government headed by another party, he said, adding that there is no more Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) and that all its members are now Umno members.

"They are also bound by party's regulations and their actions must in accordance with the principles of Umno's struggle as well as party discipline ... when MT makes a decision, every member is bound by it," he told a news conference after chairing the first MT meeting since the Umno's election last October.

S46 was dissolved on Oct 6 this year and all its members applied to join Umno en bloc. The has 11 elected representatives in the 43-seat Kelantan State Legislative Assembly, with four of them State Executive Councillors.

The four including Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Rozali Isohak had said that they would not give up their posts until they received "directive from the leadership."

On the much-talked PAS-Umno coalition government, Dr Mahathir said Umno was willing to consider such a proposal, if there was one, from PAS.

However, he said PAS had not till now submit any letter applying to join or to work together with Umno.

"What we have is only press statement. As such, Umno cannot make any consideration," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno would study request from any parties to join Umno.

He said that if PAS was later to submit its application, naturally Umno would see their conditions.

"Will it be that among the conditions Mat Sabu (Mohamed Sabu, deputy PAS Youth leader) will not chide the Prime Minister anymore?" he said.

Dr Mahathir said the MT also made clear Umno's stand towards non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and he, as Prime Minister, explained the government's stand.

The NGOs were like other organisations and if they broke the law action would be taken, he said.

On the second Asia Pacific Conference on East Timur (APCET 11) held here recently, he said country's laws did not prevent any group from holding closed-door meeting.

But APCET II was held openly without permit from the authorities and attended by journalists as well as foreigners who had entered the country using social visit pass, he said.

He said two offences had been committed, holding an open conference without permit and foreign visitors misusing their social visit pass.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said the government would take action against those who broke the laws, be they NGOs or not. "It's the government policy," he added. -- BERNAMA

ZKS SJA ABG