

08 MAY 1996

Mohamed-Reject

UMNO REJECTS REGISTRATION TO CONTEST DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S POST

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- The Umno headquarters has rejected an application by a party member to register to contest the deputy president's post.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today the rejection was based on the supreme council decision not to allow any member to register to contest the posts of president and deputy president.

Announcing the list of those who had registered to contest in the party elections in October, he reiterated the supreme council's decision last Saturday to stand by the decision of the 1995 Umo general assembly not to have contests for the two posts.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said the supreme council had also agreed that the party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim need not register themselves in the registration exercise which ended yesterday.

"It was also decided at that meeting that no one else is eligible to offer himself for the two posts. If there are others who want to register to contest the posts of president and deputy president, their applications will be rejected," he said.

Mohamed said he had referred the matter to the party leadership before deciding on the rejection.

He said that was the only application received to contest either of the two top posts.

"I do not want to mention him (the member involved) or where he is from. I regard it as a gimmick, a move ostensibly to express that there is no democracy, but I believe there certain reasons for his doing so," he said.

Asked whether disciplinary action would be taken against the member for going against the party decision, Mohamed said the party headquarters would observe his reaction to the rejection before taking further action.

"I want to see what he does first. For now, by the power vested in me I have rejected his registration paper," he said, adding that he did not want to give cheap publicity to the member involved. -- BERNAMA

AFY JK