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Sabbaruddin-Umno

UMNO STUDYING APPLICATIONS BY FORMER S46 MEMBERS TO SET UP BRANCHES

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Umno headquarters will study the applications of 121,000 former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) members who have applied to join Umno to set up 7,018 branches.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today the matter would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In principle, an Umno branch can only be formed in an area which did not already have one, he told reporters after witnessing the signing of an agreement between Pekeliling Triangle Sdn Bhd and Pernas Hotel Management Sdn Bhd for the management of the Monarch Marinara Residency here.

"The Supreme Council sticks to its stand that there cannot be two Umno branches in one place in order to prevent disunity," he said.

The Umno Management Committee chaired by deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim discussed this matter at its meeting yesterday.

Sabbaruddin said some of the applications could involve kampung which did not have branches yet.

The meeting also decided not to expel Sungai Petani Umno vice-chief Abdul Hamid Mohammad for his conviction on ganja possession.

However, the committee decided to strip him of his party post, he said.

On Dec 9, the Magistrate's Court sentenced him to a RM1,500 fine in default nine months' jail for the offence.

The meeting also approved the setting up of about 80 branches throughout the country, he said.

The agreement provides for a five-year lease, with provision for another five, from Pekeliling Triangle to Pernas Hotel Management to manage and market 60 Marinara apartments in Jalan Tun Razak. The complex also has office space and shoplots.

Pekeliling Triangle was represented by its executive chairperson Hajah Marina Yusoff and Pernas by its chairman Tunku Tan Sri Shahriman Tunku Sulaiman.

Meanwhile, former S46 deputy president Datuk Dr Rais Yatim said he had written two letters, to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Sabbaruddin, seeking a resolution of the problem on the applications of former S46 members to join Umno.

"I wrote the letters in my personal capacity out of a desire to see that the applications of former S46 members to join Umno do not face problems that can jeopardise the main objective of dissolving our party (on Oct 6 this year)," he told Bernama.

On Nov 29, Sabbaruddin said only 10,000 of the 200,000 applications from former S46 members to join Umno could be accepted automatically.

He said 120,000 applications needed to be studied further because they involved the opening of new branches in areas which already have branches while 60,000 application forms were not properly filled up or were from people aged under 18 or who are already Umno members.

Rais suggested that the 120,000 former S46 members be absorbed into existing branches if their applications to form new branches were rejected.

He said the agreement reached between leaders of the two parties was that all former S46 members join Umno en bloc. -- BERNAMA

AH YBY