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Anwar-Umno

UMNO TO EXPEL DEFIANT DELEGATES

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Several divisional delegates found to have breached party ethics and regulations in the run-up to the Umno General Assembly in October will be suspended or expelled by the party.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is Umno deputy president, said the party's disciplinary and management committee was in the final stages of taking action against several delegates and divisional leaders proven to have violated party regulations.

"We will recommend to the coming Supreme Council meeting to either suspend their membership or expel them," he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang today after seeing off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his trip to Beijing.

Yesterday Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said some delegates to the general assembly had already come to Kuala Lumpur in the hope of getting money by selling their votes.

Anwar said delegates who were expelled or suspended could not attend the General Assembly scheduled for Oct 9 to 12.

Asked if divisions would be allowed to replace the affected delegates, he said the committee would table a recommendation on this at the Supreme Council meeting.

"Our proposal is that the person with the next highest number of votes (in the divisional contest) be allowed to represent the division," said Anwar, who heads the committee.

On Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat's statement yesterday that some delegates or 'brokers' were gathering at hotels in the federal capital to harass or threaten candidates, Anwar said they were being watched.

"We have a list of such people and we are studying the matter closely," he said.

Anwar said he had informed Dr Mahathir of the committee's decision made three days ago that all party functions involving Supreme Council, Youth and Wanita members that were held behind closed doors be cancelled with effect from today.

He said such activities seemed to be going on in the states.

"Anyone found to have breached the regulations will be subjected to disciplinary action," he said.

He confirmed that several candidates had been issued show-cause letters for violating party rules.

At its previous meeting, the Supreme Council imposed a ban on all forms of campaigning in a bid to overcome money politics and power abuse in the run-up to the General Assembly. -- BERNAMA

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