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Umno-Campaign

UMNO YOUTH RECEIVES COMPLAINTS ON MONEY POLITICS IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 1 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth has received several complaints on money politics and abuse of power in the campaigning for the party elections in October.

Youth head Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik said today the movement would investigate all the complaints.

"If there is proof, the matter will be taken up to the highest level in the party," he told reporters after attending a briefing on the role of the Defence Ministry here.

Abdul Rahim led a delegation of about 50 youth leaders to the hour-long closed door briefing conducted by Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar.

Abdul Rahim said the campaigning should be clean and abide by the party's constitution in line with advice of the party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Syed Hamid, also an Umno Supreme Council member, said what was important was not merely to win the election but to ensure that Umno and the Barisan Nasional continued to receive the support of the people.

Syed Hamid is one of the two new faces, the other being Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli, who will be vying for the posts of vice-president. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi has also confirmed his intention to make a bid for the post.

The incumbents are Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Youth and Sports Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib.

Syed Hamid said in his campaigning he explained why he was offering himself for election to the post. "So far, it is going well and I am happy with the support shown," he added.

He said today's briefing centred on national defence and security matters and the aspirations of the ministry which regarded defence as a comprehensive concept.

With more understanding of the concept, second echelon leaders especially would be more sensitive towards national defence and security issues, he added.

Syed Hamid said at a time the country was enjoying rapid economic growth the government should modernise the nation's defence.

He added: "This does not mean we are involved in an arms race. We need to modernise our Armed Forces in line with the nation's defence so that the country can play a role in jointly defending this region as well as the world in general." -- BERNAMA

SJA MTA LDB