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Mahathir-Umno

WITHDRAW IF YOU BREAK UMNO RULES, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today candidates vying for whatever party positions in the October Umno elections should withdraw if they breach the election rules.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said if they were sincere or knew that they had done something that went against the party rules, they must withdraw.

"If they love Umno and do not want to see the party destroyed because of the lack of moral and loose ethics, they should withdraw if they love Umno," he told reporters upon his return from China this afternoon.

He was commenting on the statement by the chairman of the Umno election committee, Tan Sri Mustafa Jabar yesterday that those who had received show-cause letters from the Umno headquarters should withdraw from the party elections.

When asked whether candidates for the posts of vice president should withdraw if they were included among the seven members who had received show-cause letters, Dr Mahathir replied: "Yes, from the top leadership to the lowest level."

"If they are candidates for the vice president's post, they should withdraw if they had done something wrong," Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who is also Umno deputy President, said there were no candidates vying for the Umno vice president's post who had been given show-cause letters for breaching the campaign ban although several problems had been raised against them.

However, Anwar did not identify those who had been given the show-cause letters.

Last Sunday, Umno secretary general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat was reported to have said that Umno headquarters had sent out seven show-cause letters to candidates and delegates to the Umno general assembly in October.

Asked on the reports that there were candidates who were using foundations, organisations or think tanks as platforms for campaigning, Dr Mahathir said Umno would take action against them.

"If they had done that which is against the directive, action will be taken (against them)," he said.

However, he said Umno would be "careful" in taking action against the candidates.

The Prime Minister said Umno would not be "hasty" in taking action whether they involved top leaders or the lowest echelon. -- BERNAMA

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