

23 FEB 1997

Sabaruddin-Umno

ALL UMNO MEMBERS ARE FREE TO CONTEST DURING AGMS, SAYS SEC-GEN

MELAKA, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- All Umno members, including former members of the now defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46), are free to contest for positions at the party branch annual general meetings beginning in April, Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabaruddin Chik said.

As members, they have the right to vote or contest and there should not be any problems, he said when asked to comment on talks that many former S46 members would be involved in the coming Umno branch AGMs.

The Umno Supreme Council had fixed the branch AGMs to be held between April 1 and May 15.

Sabaruddin who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister said this to reporters after attending a briefing for branch leaders organised by the Melaka Umno here.

He said Umno members should not differentiate former S46 members with the rest.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on numerous occasions reminded members on the matter so problems should not arise, he said, adding that every member had the same party right.

A total 10,603 former S46 members had been readmitted into Umno since October while some 120,000 more applications were being processed.

On the briefing attended by members from 274 Umno branches here today, he said Umno branches in other states should emulate the efforts being made by Melaka Umno in preparations for the forthcoming AGMs.

Briefings such as this, could be held simultaneously at branch or even divisional level, he added. -- BERNAMA

MOZ LS ABG