

30 APR 1997

Sabbaruddin-Umno

ANOTHER 30,000 FORMER S46 MEMBERS CONFIRMED IN UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 (Bernama) -- Over 30,000 former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) members have their membership for the various Umno divisions confirmed today -- the last day for the divisions to do so.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said with their membership confirmation today, they would be able to attend their respective branch annual meetings, if such meeting had not been held.

They could also contest for party positions, he told reporters here.

The matter had been discussed with the party management committee chairman Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who in turn informed party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We will refer the matter to the management committee meeting on May 7," said Sabbaruddin who is also the Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministers.

Sabbaruddin said former S46 members, whose Umno membership had been confirmed but were not listed with any branch, would be referred to the committee so that they would be given the option to be with any branch of their choice.

All the 16,109 Umno branches have been directed to hold their annual meetings between April 1 and May 15.

Earlier, some 10,000 of the 197,000 applicants from S46 members, who were without problems, were accepted into the Umno fold.

Of the total number, 65,000 had to be rejected by the Umno headquarters for various reasons, like using the wrong forms, while a further 60,000 applications were referred back to the various party divisions for membership confirmation in their respective branches.

Sabbaruddin said the party headquarters also received several complaints on members resorting to money politics, including the sponsoring of overseas trips and the giving of hampers by those vying for positions in branch elections.

The party disciplinary committee, headed by Anwar, would meet on May 7 to discuss the matter, while the supreme council would meet later, on May 10, he added.-- BERNAMA

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