

23 NOV 1997

Sabbaruddin-Leave

BAN ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL ONLY FOR VACATION- SABARRUDDIN

PETALING JAYA, Nov 23 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today the ban on overseas trips for party members only applies to vacations.

The decision made at the recent Umno supreme council (MT) meeting was one of the measures taken to encourage thrift and to control the outflow of cash, he said.

"All concerned must adhere to the advice of party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."

"The presidential advice can be viewed as a directive," he told reporters after opening the 1997 International Cat Competition organised by the Malaysia/ Friskies Cat Owners' Association here.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim had said party leaders at all levels should stop vacationing overseas and spend their holidays locally.

However Umno members were allowed to travel abroad on business, said Sabbaruddin who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

Of his recent visit to the World Tourism Market '97 in London, Sabbaruddin said his ministry was trying to bring the foreign media and tour agents to Malaysia to see for themselves the weather conditions and the haze free skies.

His ministry was arranging with the local hotels for free accommodation while MAS would offer free return tickets with the Malaysian Travel and Tour Association (MATTA) providing the land transport for them, he said.

Sabbaruddin said foreign tourists had cancelled tour bookings because of foreign media playing up the haze issue. -- BERNAMA

HAK AR AAM