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Annuar-Umno

DON'T RAISE UMNO YOUTH CHIEF ELECTION ISSUE, SAYS ANNUAR

KOTA BAHARU, April 21 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno liaison committee deputy chairman Datuk Annuar Musa said today the allegation that the election of the Umno Youth head at the party general assembly last October was rigged should not be raised now.

Annuar, who was also one of the candidates who contested the post, said that raising the issue now would only discourage Youth head Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi from discharging his duties and weaken the party.

"To me the matter is closed and those who contested the post should support Zahid so that the party could become stronger," he told reporters here.

He was commenting on a memorandum sent last week by an Umno member from the Medan Imbi Bukit Bintang branch, Khairuddin Abu Hassan, to Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad alleging cheating in the vote count at the assembly.

Annuar said any protest should have been submitted soon after the result was announced and not now as several months had passed.

Zahid won the election when he obtained 155 votes, beating incumbent Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik (103 votes), Annuar (135 votes), Tan Sri Mohd Isa Samad (72 votes) and Abdul Rahman Salleh (one vote)

Annuar also did not agree with Ahmad Zahid's view for the Umno Supreme Council to investigate the allegation because he said it was not necessary and the youth leadership should be given full support.

He also urged Umno members to learn from the 1987 Umno election, which caused a split in Umno following dissatisfaction among its members on the results of the poll.

On the view that Umno's Youth and Wanita movements were not functioning to expectation, Annuar said opportunities should be given for the leadership to prove their worth.

"If they are weak, we should give them strength, if they lack something we supplement them and if they are shorthanded we offer them assistance, only then can everything be accomplished," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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