

17/04/1997

Kota Baru division urged to put off branch meetings

KOTA BARU, Wed. - The Kota Baru Umno was today urged to postpone all the party branch meetings in the division until placement of the former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 members in the respective branches are finalised.

A member of the co-ordination committee set up to manage the placing of the former S46 members in Umno, Wan Rahim Wan Hassan, said there were about 4,000 former S46 members in the Kota Baru division.

He added that though all of them have been accepted as Umno members following S46's dissolution in October last year, they have yet to be given places in the division's branches.

"With the placement unsettled, it means that we cannot participate in the Umno branch meetings," he told a Press conference today.

Asked about the delay in the placement of the S46 members at the branches, Wan Rahim said the reason given by the Kota Baru division was that the members could not be traced.

"No reason was given why our members could not be traced despite a few of them being neighbours or staying in the same village with some of the Kota Baru Umno divisional committee members," he added.

"Though the joining of the former S46 members in Umno is enbloc, the Kota Baru Umno division leaders claim that the members cannot be traced.

"What saddens us is that among the members whom Umno said cannot be traced are the former S46 divisional leaders including from the Youth and Wanita wings," he added.

According to Wan Rahim, the failure of the Kota Baru Umno division to settle the placement of the former S46 members in the respective branches was a defiance of the directive issued by the party's State liaison committee headed by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The 14 Umno divisions in Kelantan were given until March 15 to rectify particulars of the 140,000 former S46 members who have been accepted to join the party, including their placement in the respective Umno branches.

The move to expedite the process was made to enable them to attend Umno's branch meeting beginning this month.

The directive also stipulated the placement of the S46 members in Umno branches, where it would be based on their residential addresses.

For those staying in places where there is no Umno branch, it was decided that their placement will be at the party branch nearest to their home.

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