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Money politics back, says Sabbaruddin

KEPONG, Sat. - Money politics has resurfaced during some divisional and branch meetings despite the party's aggressive efforts to crack down on the practice, Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

He said the issue came to light after the supreme council received complaints that several division heads were indulging in money politics on the pretext of accepting and giving tithes (zakat).

He said they still needed to finalise the reports as there was basis for some of the complaints received.

"We want to get rid of this practice completely from the party and nip it in the bud. If we wait too long, it might be too late," he said, adding that money politics could disrupt party unity.

Speaking to reporters after launching a management and administration course organised by the Gombak division, he said the problem was discussed at length during the supreme council meeting last Thursday.

He said some immediate measures would be taken to check the resurgence of money politics among its members.

"We will submit our plan to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on shortening the period between the divisional meetings and the general assembly."

The supreme council, he said, had also restricted and disallowed the branches from organising fund-raising charity dinners. However, there were individuals who took the opportunity to organise such programmes for their own benefit.

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