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On-line network for branches before polls

MALACCA, Sun. - All Umno branches would have the party's on-line network information system (Simum) before the next general election, its information chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said today.

However, he said, priority would be given to installing the system at the party headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and linking it with the various State Umno headquarters and divisions.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also party president has given the go-ahead. The party's information bureau is working out the cost of such a network."

Yusof told reporters this after delivering a religious ceramah which was organised by the Paya Rumpit Umno branch at Sekolah Menengah Tun Abdul Malek in Cheng today.

He added there was a need for such a system following calls by Dr Mahathir not to be left behind.

"Since the Prime Minister launched an IT awareness campaign last night, the party which forms the backbone of the ruling Government should not be left behind.

"For this reason, the party decided to have its own system for the benefit of some 2.7 million members."

Furthermore, Yusof added, there was a need to disseminate party information fast.

"Information to the grassroots needs to be transmitted quickly so they can keep in touch with party developments."

Yusof said by having the system installed before the election, the party could effectively monitor the running of campaigns.

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