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Registrar informed of Umno name-change

Kang Siew Li

UMNO secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said yesterday a letter has been sent to the Registrar of Societies on the dropping of the word "Baru" from the party's name.

"We will have a special general assembly to sought the approval of other party members sometime in March," he told reporters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday after performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the proposed National Art Gallery new complex at Jalan Temerloh, off Jalan Tun Razak.

Sabbaruddin said he will notify Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on this matter.

Some 60,000 applications by former Parti Semangat 46 members to join Umno have been rejected and will be returned to these applicants, he said.

Some of the applications were rejected because applicants were under-aged or forms were not filled in properly. Umno's records also showed that some of the applicants were also registered as Umno members, Sabbaruddin said.

To date, Umno accepted a total of 10,603 former S46 members as members. They have all been absorbed into existing Umno branches.

Sabbaruddin said the respective Umno divisional heads have also been asked to find out whether the former S46 members can establish new branches in their respective areas.

"The divisional heads have until April 30 this year to complete the task, failing which the Umno management committee will make the decision," he said.

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