

29/01/1997

Resolution needed for Umno to drop the word `Baru'

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Umno Baru will need to pass a resolution at its General Assembly or at an extraordinary general meeting before it can be allowed to drop the word "Baru" (new) and be re-registered as Umno.

Party secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said the Registrar of Companies had no objections to the change in name, but has insisted that this be tabled for the members to decide in order to fulfill requirements stated in its constitution.

Earlier this month, party vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said the time was appropriate for Umno Baru to have its name reverted to Umno with the dissolution of Parti Melayu Semangat 46 and in view of its members rejoining the ruling party.

He had said that the recent court decision to return all of Umno's assets to the party was clear indication that Umno and Umno Baru was one organisation.

Umno was declared illegal by the High Court after the 1990 General Election, following an action by some members who left the party to form S46.

Sabbaruddin said it was up to party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on whether to table this in the October General Assembly or earlier.

He was speaking to reporters after witnessing the ground-breaking ceremony for the new National Art Gallery in Jalan Temerloh, off Jalan Tun Razak.

On the status of application by former S46 members to rejoin Umno, he said todate the forms of 10,000 members have already been processed and are in the midst of being readmitted into Umno.

Sabbaruddin said the party has returned some 60,000 Umno membership forms because their applications could not be processed for various reasons.

Some applications, he pointed out, were from individuals who were already members of Umno because their membership was not cancelled when joining S46, or they did not inform the party of the transition.

"If their names are already in the Umno membership list, there is no need for fresh applications."

In some cases, the forms were wrongly filled, while other applicants were found to be underaged.

All branch chiefs have been given until April 30 to wrap up the readmission exercise.

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