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Sabbaruddin-Umno

SACK FOR CANDIDATES PREVIOUSLY CHARGED IN COURT

KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- Candidates standing for the Umno branch and divisional elections next year will be sacked if they are found to have been previously charged in court, party secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

He conceded that it would be difficult for the party to identify its members who had been previously charged in court, but said: "(The member) should know if he had been charged before."

"If he still went ahead and contested (for posts) then we will sack him," he told reporters after closing a tourism seminar here.

Sabbaruddin, who is also Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, said the party knew of a few members who had been charged in court before but could not determine the total number of such members.

He was commenting on Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday forbidding members who had been charged in court before to vie for party posts.

Asked about the growing tension in some Umno divisions with the approach of the party elections next February, Sabbaruddin said it should not exist.

"We discussed this at the meeting last night. We don't want chaos (in the elections)," he added. -- BERNAMA

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