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Sabaruddin-Election

SELANGOR'S DECISION NOT VALID, SAYS UMNO SEC-GEN

SHAH ALAM, Dec 26 (Bernama) -- Umno Selangor's decision pertaining to the election of key posts in Umno divisions is not valid and goes against that made by the party's Supreme Council (MT), Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

He said MT had never prevented anyone from contesting in divisional election although it would like to see the posts uncontested.

"I too would like to see no contest in my division but if there are members who want to contest, it's up to them," he told reporters after opening the Open Exhibition '97 at Shah Alam Gallery, Taman Tasik here.

Selangor Umno secretary Datuk Onn Ismail had said last Wednesday that the state liaison committee had decided that keys posts would not be contested in divisional election to be held next year.

As such, Onn said holders of key posts like divisional, youth and wanita chiefs had been directed to work it out among themselves to avoid a contest.

Sabbaruddin said Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had directed him last night to clarify the matter.

Asked whether action would be taken against members who insisted on contesting in the divisional election, he said only the MT could take action.

"There will be no penalty against them although Selangor Umno has made such a ruling.

"The decision is not valid because it is contrary to the decision of the MT," he said.

He said that although Selangor Umno had forwarded its decision to him and also party's president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, it did not mean that MT agreed with it. --BERNAMA

AZH ABG