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Sabbaruddin-MT

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TO DISCUSS ALLEGATIONS OF MONEY POLITICS

KUALA LUMPUR, April 11 (Bernama) -- The Umno headquarters has received reports alleging money politics at several Umno branch elections, party secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

He said the party management committee at its meeting yesterday decided that the complaints be discussed at the Umno Supreme Council (MT) meeting tomorrow.

The committee, chaired by Umno deputy-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim heard allegations that several branch heads fished for votes by offering delegates tourism package tours to Medan or Hadyai, he said.

"We will bring the complaints to the MT meeting tomorrow and the council will decide on it," he told reporters after the function to announce the National Art Figure here.

The committee would also raise the issue where former members of the now defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46 were yet to be absorbed into Umno, he said.

Sabbaruddin said so far some 13,000 of them had been admitted as Umno members.

He said the MT would decide on some 78,000 former S46 members from Kelantan who had applied to join Umno through new branches.

Umno only allows for the establishment of new branches in areas where there are no existing party branches.

He said the party's management committee yesterday had decided to submit the appeal from former S46 Umno members for them to attend the branch delegates meeting being held now. The MT has fixed the branch delegates meeting to be held from April 1 to May 15.

The MT has also decided that delegates who paid membership fees on or before Jan 31 this year be allowed to attend branch meetings.

"Only the MT can decide on whether those admitted as Umno members after Jan 31 can attend branch delegates meeting or not," he said.

Sabbaruddin said 26,000 out of some 78,000 applications from former S46 members in Kelantan had been verified and they would be admitted into Umno anytime.

He said the meeting yesterday also discussed the Umno anniversary celebrations for this year.

Sabbaruddin said the one-day celebration on May 11 at party headquarters here includes the party flag raising ceremony followed by speeches from party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. A forum jointly organised by the party's Wanita and Youth wings will also be held.

He said Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak would table a working paper on the setting up of the Umno Centre as the party training institution at the MT meeting tomorrow.

On the Umno membership card, he said it would follow the credit-card format and the party headquarters would appoint a firm to produce the cards.

The membership card would have the member's name, identity card number, membership number and code as well as the state, division and branch where the person belongs to, he said. -- BERNAMA

SJA ZUL AO