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Mahathir-Rahim

ANYONE WITH NO PENDING COURT CASE CAN CONTEST, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

RAWANG, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno does not ban any member who has no court case pending against him from contesting in the party elections.

"If he has no court case we cannot do anything," he said when asked to comment on former Melaka chief minister Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik's intention to contest the Kota Melaka Umno division chief's post in March.

Speaking at a news conference after visiting the Taman Bunga Raya housing project sit in Bukit Beruntung, near here, Dr Mahathir said he had not read about Rahim's offer to contest which was reported in the local newspapers today.

Rahim said yesterday that he was willing to offer himself for the division's top post to serve the party if he received enough nominations.

Kota Melaka division head Datuk Nasir Manap, who is also Melaka State Assembly Speaker, announced the same day that he was stepping down after leading the division for 15 years.

Rahim has so far received two nominations to contest the post of division chief from the Ujung Pasir Pantai and Tengkeru branches in the Kota Melaka division which has 43 branches.

Asked whether Rahim had the right to contest, Dr Mahathir said: "We (Umno) have a ban on people with court cases.

"The Umno culture is that we cannot fault a person who is found to be not guilty.

"We cannot (act) on mere suspicion. We must abide by the law. If a person is found not guilty under the law, we cannot say we know for a fact that he is guilty," he said. -- BERNAMA

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