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`Disciplinary panel will convene when Dr M says so'

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said the party's disciplinary committee will not convene any meeting until directed by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Sabbaruddin said the committee would wait for further instructions from Dr Mahathir in case there was a need to discuss any disciplinary cases involving its members.

Before this, the disciplinary committee was chaired by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the three vice-presidents - Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Datuk Seri Najib Razak and former Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, who is now on leave - are among the members.

Others in the committee are Wanita head Datuk Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and also Sabbaruddin.

However, since Anwar's expulsion from Umno for moral misconduct, the committee chairman's post has yet to be filled.

The committee normally meets every fortnight.

Sabbaruddin, who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, said this when asked on possible candidates who will replace Anwar as chairman of the committee.

He had earlier opened an exhibition on Malaysian textile art at Bank Negara.

On whether action would be taken against Umno members seen at Anwar's house or supporting him, he said: "There has been no directive yet to produce them before the disciplinary committee."

Sabbaruddin also refuted claims by certain quarters that Anwar was given the privilege to conduct rallies due to his former position in the Government.

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