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Suleiman-Umno

DO NOT BE ENRAPTURED DEPUTY PRESIDENT HOPEFULS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- Federal Territory Umno does not want Umno leaders to go all out and campaign for the post of party Deputy President and instead wants them to concentrate on economic recovery efforts.

Its chairman Datuk Suleiman Mohamed said the FT Umno rejected leaders even if they were ministers or senior ministers if they only cared about the top post and ignored the party interests.

The FT Umno was uneasy over the move by certain Umno leaders to be overzealous in their campaign for the Umno Deputy President's post which was now vacant following the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from Umno on Sept 3.

It has been the tradition in Malaysia for the the Umno Deputy President to be appointed Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Suleiman said it would be better for the leaders involved to forget about positions in the party and strive to strengthen the position of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is also the party president.

"What these deputy president hopefuls should do is confront Umno's enemies and focus their attention on economic recovery instead of going from upstream to downstream campaigning," he said after launching the Information Department's Quality Day today.

The FT Umno preferred a choice by the Prime Minister himself in the matter of filling the second highest post in the party, Suleiman said.

"We prefer Dr Mahathir to indicate his preference ...let it be anyone , FT Umno will accept the person who need not necessarily be one of the vice-presidents," he said.

Asked whether the candidate for the post of Deputy Prime Minister should be proposed by any group, he said no such proposal had to be made as it was the prerogative of the Prime Minister to appoint anyone he preferred.

"FT Umno fully supports the choice of the Prime Minister," he added.

-- BERNAMA

WNZ AAM