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Dr M's advice seen as a directive

JELI, Fri. - Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent announcement for party members and leaders in Kelantan to avoid contest for the post of divisional heads has been declared a directive and not a mere advice by Kelantan Umno.

State Umno liaison committee deputy chairman Datuk Annuar Musa said the decision to adopt the stand was in view of various interpretations among the hopefuls in the run-up to the divisional election between March 12 and 29.

He said the committee had also decided to accept all decisions and advice given by Dr Mahathir at its meeting last Jan 26 as a directive which must be adhered to by all party members in the State.

Dr Mahathir, who is the State Umno liaison Committee head had chaired the Jan 26 meeting during his day-long working visit to Kelantan that day.

Annuar said the matters discussed during the meeting included the post of the Gua Musang Umno divisional chief which had been handed over to Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, the requirement for divisional chiefs to allocate party positions for those unable to contest and to stop all forms of campaigning.

"All the four must be taken collectively as a directive from the party president," he told reporters said after closing the Umno administration course for branches in the Jeli division today.

Present was MP for Jeli who is also Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Asked on the action to be taken against members who failed to comply with the directive, Annuar said it would be decided by the Umno Supreme Council.

"But, if possible, we do not want to drag anyone to that extent, considering that Umno wants to pool its resources to win back the State."

Annuar added all divisional heads had fully agreed to allocate suitable positions to party members who could not contest for the top divisional post.

He added that the positions allocated would differ from each division as it depended on the suitability.

"They could be offered as high as the position of deputy divisional head or the posts of permanent chairman or an appointed committee member," he said, adding that the most important thing was to allow everybody to have a role in strengthening the party.

He also said that Jeli was the first division to reach a consensus not to contest for all the major divisional posts, including the division head's post, held by Mustapa.

"Jeli has passed the resolution to fully implement all the directives of the party president."

He said the resolution had received the backing from all its branches after a consensus had been reached among the divisional committee members.

He hoped other divisions would emulate their counterparts in Jeli to promote unity among the members.

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