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Mahathir-Harris

HARRIS DOES NOT HAVE MY BLESSING, SAYS MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, May 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today quashed rumours that Parti Bersekutu and its leader, former chief minister Datuk Harris Salleh, have his blessings.

"No, we have sacked Datuk Harris from Umno. Even though he says that he has resigned, we did not have any documents on his resignation, therefore, when the supreme council met the other day we expelled him," he said when asked about rumours that Harris has his blessing.

"Harris will not be a member of Barisan Nasional (BN) even if he wins (in the state election), and for that matter, neither will Parti Bersatu Sabah," he told a packed new conference here after meeting state BN leaders on his brief visit, here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president and BN chairman, said Harris never came to see him prior to the launch of Parti Bersekutu as his political comeback platform recently.

"We will accept no party before or after the (state) election," he said, referring to the state election that must be held by the end of March next year.

Asked on the potential harm posed by Harris to Umno, Dr Mahathir said: "He can be a spoiler because as you know, one or two votes can cause the defeat of a candidate. So Harris has big nuisance value, and we don't need nuisance."

"Harris had his chance and he spoiled his chance and now he is trying to make people forget how much they disliked him before. They threw him out lock, stock, and barrel, not even one single seat, but he hopes they have forgotten. But if they have forgotten, I will remind them," he said.

--BERNAMA

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