

05 MAY 1998

Umno - Harris

HARRIS HAS LEFT UMNO EARLIER, SAYS PARTI BERSEKUTU

KOTA KINABALU, May 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Harris Salleh, who was expelled from Umno last night for joining Sabah's Parti Bersekutu, had resigned as a member of an Umno branch in Labuan on March 6, his new party said today.

Parti Bersekutu deputy secretary-general Ibrahim Kalali said in a statement that Harris, who is now Parti Bersekutu president, tendered his resignation from Umno in a letter dated March 6 to the Ramsay branch in Labuan.

Ibrahim also circulated to the media copies of Harris' resignation letter to the Labuan Federal Territory Umno Liaison Committee secretary.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night announced Harris's expulsion from Umno because the Umno constitution prohibits a member from embracing another political party.

The decision was made by the Umno Supreme Council, the party's highest policy-making body, which met in Kuala Lumpur last night.

"We don't allow Umno members to join another party. He (Harris) is now a member of another party and has been expelled," Dr Mahathir told a news conference after chairing the meeting.

Harris, a former Sabah chief minister, was appointed Acting President of Bersekutu last March 29 while he was still an Umno member in the Ramsay branch of the Labuan division, Dr Mahathir said.

Harris had been an Umno member since March 29, 1991 and his membership number was 01478797.

Meanwhile, Sabah Umno Liaison Committee secretary Datuk Yahya Hussin has advised party divisional leaders especially to immediately ascertain that no Umno member in their division was also registered with other parties.

"We don't want Umno members to betray the party," he said commenting on Harris' expulsion from Umno.

Yahya said divisional leaders should report to the liaison committee if there were Umno members enjoying other party membership.

On Harris's dismissal from Umno, he said it was a proper course of action.

"It serves as a reminder to others that they must show undivided loyalty to the party," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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