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Sabbaruddin: Not all 25 will be interviewed

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Not all the 25 Umno members who have replied to show-cause letters for their alleged involvement in sacked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's so-called reformasi movement will be interviewed, party secretary-general Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik said.

He said only some would be interviewed by the Umno management and disciplinary committee on Wednesday while the rest would have their letters studied further for recommendations to the party's supreme council.

However, he did not say how many would be called or why only some would be called, although he did say that former youth leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi would be among those to be interviewed.

Sabbaruddin did not want to elaborate on the recommendations that would be given on the rest but said expulsion was not foremost on the party's agenda.

"According to party practice, we can give them warnings, bar them from election of party posts, suspend their membership or expel them.

"However if we want to expel them, we would have done that a long time ago," Sabbaruddin told a Press conference today.

This, he said, also applies to the eight Umno members who have yet to reply to their show-cause letters.

Sabbaruddin said the party would investigate and was considering the possibility that they did not receive the letters asking for their replies.

After a Supreme Council meeting last night, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the management and disciplinary committee had been asked to interview the 25 who had replied to their show-cause letters.

He said some of them still pledged allegiance to Umno.

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