

06 FEB 1998

Sabbaruddin-Sacrifice

SACRIFICE FOR PARTY UNITY, SAYS SABBARUDDIN

KUALA LUMPUR, 6 Feb (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice to members not to fight for the posts of division head in the March party elections should be viewed as a sacrifice for the party. Its secretary-general, Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, said today.

The advice, which was meant to ensure party unity, should not be taken lightly, he said, referring to some Umno members in Kelantan who are still intent on contesting the posts.

"Dr Mahathir is Umno president, in Kelantan he is the state liaison chief, if they cannot accept the advice of the state liaison chief, they should at least accept the advice of the party president, he said in an interview over TV3's "Malaysia Hari Ini" programme.

Sabbaruddin said Umno members could go for other party posts at the divisional level.

The half-hour programme included a telephone interview with Gua Musang Umno division head Mohamad Saufi Deraman, who said he would not contest for the post to clear the way for former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to head the division.

Earlier, Sabbaruddin who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister, spoke on the year-long programmes for the Sports and Recreation Year 1998.

He said there would be 244 sports and recreation programmes with 17 major ones including the Commonwealth Games, the Le Tour de Langkawi bicycle race and the World Inter-Team Amateur Golf Championship. -- BERNAMA

RAZ HAR JK