

25 AUG 1998

Abu Hassan-Mahathir

SELANGOR UMNO WANTS DR MAHATHIR RETAINED AS UMNO PRESIDENT

SHAH ALAM, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said today all 17 Umno divisions in Selangor will nominate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the Umno presidency in the party elections next year.

Abu Hassan, who is also State Umno Liaison chief, said the unanimous decision to retain Dr Mahathir as Umno president was made at the State Umno Liaison Committee meeting on Aug 17.

"Selangor Umno will not budge from its responsibility to defend Dr Mahathir from being undermined by any groups either from within or outside the country," he said when speaking in a meeting between Dr Mahathir and State Umno leaders at his official residence in Bukit Megawati, here.

Dr Mahathir is on a one-day working visit to Selangor.

Abu Hassan said Selangor Umno was confident that Dr Mahathir would succeed in redeeming Malaysia from the economic doldrums as this was not the first time the country was facing economic problems.

Abu Hassan said the State Umno was also determined to maintain political stability and protect the interests of the Malays and Islamic teachings at all costs.

Towards this end, the Selangor Umno had set up a Strategic Planning Unit to train party volunteers to safeguard the party's interests, he said.

" Our preparations are in top gear and we are determined to face the General Election even it is declared tomorrow," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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