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Umno-Motion

SELANGOR UMNO TO TABLE "NO-CONTEST" MOTION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- The Selangor Umno will table a "no-contest" motion at the party's General Assembly tomorrow for the president and deputy president's posts in the party elections next year to maintain political stability and to deal with the country's economic slowdown.

Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said a representative from the state Umno would announce the state's stand when tabling the motion at the 52nd assembly.

" I feel there should be no contest for the Number One and Two posts," he told reporters after attending the simultaneous opening of the Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies by Deputy Prime Minister and party deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim today.

Abu Hassan, who is also Selangor Umno Liaison chief, hoped that other states would also make similar decisions.

He said Umno must set an example to minimise politicking in the wake of the economic downturn and to preserve political stability.

The Kelantan and Kedah Umno had earlier proposed that the two posts should not be contested.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that he would not stop delegates from tabling a "no-contest" motion for the posts.

Dr Mahathir, however, said he was open to contest.

Meanwhile, Umno Information Chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor said the supreme council might discuss the matter in its meeting tonight if any of the council members raised the issue.

The council, Umno's highest decision-making body, had not received any suggestion or motion on the matter thus far.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he welcomed any motion which would help reduce politicking in the party particularly at a time when the country was facing economic problems.

It was up to Umno members to consider such motions, said Abdullah, who is Foreign Minister.

Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said it was up to party members to decide whether they wanted a contest for the two posts.

"If they want to see a split in the party like what happened in 1987 (party elections), they can have many contests.

But, if they are responsible and conscious about the party's unity and efforts to tackle the economic downturn, I feel nobody will want to challenge against one another," said the former Wanita Umno chief.

Rafidah regretted that anything to be corrected in Umno need to done by way of motion or resolution.

Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's statement yesterday, said, " I don't know about it."

He declined to comment on Johor Umno's stand on the move by Selangor Umno to table a "no-contest" motion for the president and deputy president's posts.

-- BERNAMA

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