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Umno-Mahathir

SOLID SUPPORT FOR DR MAHATHIR TO LEAD UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had received solid support from the states to retain him as Umno president in the party elections next year.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said almost all the states had pledged to nominate Dr Mahathir for the post.

However, the pledges did not amount to actual nominations as this would only be made before the party polls, he said.

"So far, there are no other candidates...if there are no contestants, certainly Dr Mahathir will win unopposed," he told reporters after launching the "Malaysia OK" brand in conjunction with the "Buy Made-In-Malaysia Products" campaign organised by Projek Lebu Raya Utara Selatan (PLUS) Bhd.

On bonus votes, Sabbaruddin said the Umno Constitution Review Committee headed by him was finalising proposals to scrap the automatic 10 bonus votes for every nomination received for the post of president and deputy president.

" We will table the proposals at the supreme council meeting before convening a special Umno General Assembly to repeal the bonus votes," said Sabbaruddin, who is Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister.

Among other proposals received by the committee are lowering the age limit for party membership to 16 from 18 years, he said.

Asked to comment on DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang's statement that the opposition party would deny Barisan Nasional a two-third majority in Parliament in the next general election, Sabbaruddin said it was impossible as the people are aware that the government was facing a big problem which need to be solved.

"I believe the people will not be swayed by Kit Siang's propaganda," he said.

In his speech, Sabbaruddin said PLUS'initiative to launch a campaign to promote Made-In-Malaysia goods was in line with the government's objectives to encourage the people to use local products.

The campaign, which will go on till the year-end, will promote Malaysian products such as handicrafts, local fruits and foodstuff at the Rest and Recreation areas along the North-South expressway.

-- BERNAMA

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