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Mahathir-Zahid

SUPREME COUNCIL WILL DECIDE ON ZAHID'S POSITION AS BSN CHAIRMAN

JITRA, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council meeting on Tuesday will decide on the position of Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi as Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman following his resignation as Umno Youth chief, Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the meeting would also consider Zahid's request to remain in Umno and as head of the Bagan Datoh division and Member of Parliament for the area.

The meeting will also decide on filling the post of Umno Youth chief vacated by Zahid today, he told reporters after addressing a gathering at Dewan Jitra, here.

Dr Mahathir said Zahid had written a letter to him stating that he would not be involved in the reform movement and wanted to remain in Umno.

The Supreme Council, the party's highest decision-making body, would decide on all these matters, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Zahid's wife also wrote to him while he (Zahid) was detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) saying that her husband no longer wanted to be involved in the reform movement.

And Zahid after being released from ISA detention also wrote another letter to him stating the same things, he said.

Asked to comment on Zahid's statement that he would go on a nationwide tour to explain the "actual situation" with regards to recent developments, Dr Mahathir said it was up to him.

Dr Mahathir said Zahid had realised that he had been used by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to topple him (Dr Mahathir).

"Anwar had admitted to have instigated Zahid to raise cronyism and nepotism issues in the last Umno General Assembly.

" But when I criticised Zahid at the assembly, Anwar kept quiet and did not defend Zahid. In fact, in the Umno Supreme Council meeting, Anwar distanced himself as though he was not involved," he said.

He said Zahid now realised that he had been used by Anwar.

-- BERNAMA

MZM/JM TS