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Umno

UMNO ELECTIONS: PRESIDENT WANTS POLITICKING CURBED

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- In its efforts to minimise politicking, the Umno leadership has advised that, as far as possible, any tussle for divisional posts involving party Supreme Council members should be avoided.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave this advice at last Friday's Supreme Council meeting, said party secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik today.

"The advice is aimed at reducing politicking and avoiding ugly contest which can undermine party unity," he said.

The president's advice was that as far as possible Supreme Council members who are incumbent divisional heads should not be challenged.

Likewise, Supreme Council members who are not heading any division need not contest for the divisional leadership.

Not all among the present 35 Supreme Council members are Umno division chiefs.

Umno divisional elections are scheduled from Mac 12 to 28 while branch meetings start from the middle of next month.

Sabbaruddin said the president's advice should be heeded in the interest of the party especially to check money politics.

"However this is not a directive," he said.

Asked whether the Umno divisional elections in March could worsen the prevailing economic woes given that substantial sums would be spent on campaigning, Sabbaruddin said several directives have been issued to check the matter.

To curb excessive spending, the Supreme Council had decided to limit breaking of fast functions and that Hari Raya open house could only be hosted within nine days after Hari Raya. -- BERNAMA

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