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Zahid-Companies

ZAHID SAYS COMPANY APPOINTMENTS CAME BEFORE YOUTH POST

BAGAN DATOH, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Former Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said today that his appointments in several companies, including as director of Kretam Holdings Bhd and Tekala Corporation Bhd, were made before he was elected as an Umno Youth leader.

"After I became Umno Youth chief I made sure that there was a demarcation line between business and politics, and I did all this in a transparent manner," he told reporters after opening new roads in Kampung Sulaiman Bulon and Kampung Parit Enam Sg Sumun, about 20km from here.

Zahid, who is Bank Simpanan Nasional chairman, said although he sat on the boards of 30 to 40 subsidiaries of the public-listed Kretam and Tekala, he only received monthly allowances of RM65,000 from the two parent companies and not the subsidiaries.

"As such, when I resigned from the two companies, I was automatically relieved of all posts in the subsidiaries," he said when commenting on newspaper reports that he was a director of dozens of companies.

Zahid also said he had held information sessions in the Bagan Datoh and Merbok divisions to explain party and national issues to members.

He said Kubang Pasu, which is headed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was among the divisions which had invited him to give talks.

On tomorrow's Umno Special General Assembly, he hoped that it would extend the proposed amendment on eligibility for Supreme Council contests to the divisional level as well.

The proposed amendment requires aspiring candidates for the post of president to get at least 30 percent of nominations from the 165 divisions while 20 percent of nominations were needed to contest the number two post.

The percentage nominations required for the vice-presidency and Supreme Council seats are 10 and five percent respectively.

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