

30 DEC 1999

Mahathir-Umno

ALLOCATING VICE-PRESIDENCY BY STATE CAN SPLIT UMNO

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno does not have provisions for allocating the party vice-presidency according to states as such a practice will split Umno.

"We do not accept parochialism. It (allocating vice-presidency) will split Umno into states," the Prime Minister and Umno president told reporters after opening an international conference on religious studies here today.

He said this when asked to comment on Sabah Wanita Umno's proposal yesterday that one of the three posts of vice-presidents be reserved for a leader from Sabah.

"As far as possible we want all Malaysians to consider themselves as the people of this country.

"We cannot say that I am from Kedah and therefore we want a seat for Kedah or that Perlis people want a Perlis representative...we do not have such provisions," he said.

Asked on talk that Umno could not possibly hold its elections by April next year because branch and divisional polls had to be held first, he said the party needed to fulfil the necessary conditions before holding elections.

"Yes, if we want to have party elections, all conditions for elections must be met," he said.

He also commented on acting Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein's statement that the movement would intensify efforts to attract more young people to join the party.

Dr Mahathir said the Umno membership was open to all who subscribed to its struggle.

However, he said people should not join Umno in the hope of getting something.

"Do not join Umno solely because you want position or something else, but join it because you believe in the party's struggle," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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