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Speaker-PM

ANYONE WHO COMMANDS MAJORITY SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT CAN BE PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 9 (Bernama) -- Under the Federal Constitution any Malaysian who commands the majority support in Parliament can be Prime Minister of Malaysia with the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said today.

"There are no conditions in the Federal Constitution that the Prime Minister should be of the Malay race or any other race as the post is open to anyone who commands the support of the majority of the members of the House," he said.

The Speaker said this when asked to comment on the opposition proposal to rotate the Prime Minister's post, if it came to power, among leaders of PAS, Keadilan, Parti Rakyat Malaysia and the DAP.

Earlier the Speaker received the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Yemen at his office here.

Mohamed Zahir said Article 43 of the Federal Constitution did not state that the post of Prime Minister of Malaysia should be held only by a Malay or a Muslim.

"It can be held by anyone who is a member of the Dewan Rakyat and who commands the support of the majority of the members of the House and with the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong," he added.

On Monday Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had when commenting on the proposal said that in such a situation Malaysia would have a government led by four parties with different leaders and different views.

Mohamed Zahir said the visit of the Yemen Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdulla Hussein Al-Ahmar would help strengthen existing relations between Malaysia and that country.

During the meeting, Sheikh Abdulla extended an invitation to Mohamed Zahir to visit the Yemen Republic.

Malaysia's trade and Islamic relations with Yemen date back to the 1400s during the period of the Melaka Malay Sultanate.

Sheikh Abdulla also called on the President of the Dewan Negara Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob.

The Sheikh arrived here yesterday from Beijing after a tour of China at the head of a 10-member delegation for a three-day visit to Malaysia.

This afternoon Sheikh Abdulla will have an audience with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah at Istana Negara and also call on the Prime Minister.

He programme also includes a tour of the KLCC.

Tomorrow he will visit the International Islamic University and meet Yemeni students before leaving for the Genting Highlands.

The Sheikh will also visit the Institute for Islamic Understanding before leaving for London tomorrow night from the KL International Airport.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AAM