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Adnan-Umno

PAHANG SAYS UMNO STILL NEEDS MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP

KUANTAN, Dec 29 (Bernama) -- Pahang Umno said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should continue to lead Umno as party president.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob, who is state Umno information chief, said the question of Dr Mahathir defending the Umno presidency in the coming party elections did not arise.

Besides being still physically fit, Dr Mahathir was always full of ideas, Adnan said when approached by reporters after attending today's sitting of the State Legislative Assembly here.

"A common predicament is that a leader may be past his peak and runs out ideas but in Dr Mahathir's case he is still active and has sound ideas," said Adnan, who is also Bentong Umno division chief.

When interviewed by Radio and Television Malaysia in Putrajaya yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he would defend the Umno presidency if re-nominated to party top post for next year's party elections.

Dr Mahathir was returned unopposed to the Umno presidency in successive party elections since after 1987.

In MELAKA, Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said the state Umno would propose that there should be no contest for the Umno presidency in the upcoming party elections.

"We'll propose there should be no contest...its vital that the prime minister is returned (as party president) unopposed," he told reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting.

In welcoming Dr Mahathir's announcement that he would defend the post if re-nominated, Mohamed Ali said: "We want Dr Mahathir to continue serving the party and country."

Mohamed Ali is an Umno Supreme Council member and deputy chairman of the Melaka Umno liaison committee.

He expressed hope that in the upcoming party elections there would also be no contest for the Umno deputy president's post which is vacant following the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the party in September 1998.

-- BERNAMA

MOZ RYN