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Abu Zahar-Candidate

RUMOURS AIMED AT CAUSING SPLIT IN UMNO - CM

MELAKA, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Rumours that the Melaka Umno leadership will be revamped to face the coming general election are aimed at causing a split in the party, state Umno chief Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin said today.

He said the rumours would not affect the Barisan Nasional's (BN) and Umno's struggles.

"They (rumour mongers) have the right to make any assumption because the country practises democracy. What is important is that we must work hard to ensure a BN win in the election," he said.

Abu Zahar, who is the chief minister, was speaking to reporters after chairing the weekly state executive council meeting.

Asked about his position in the election, he said "nothing is permanent in the world" and it was up to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to decide on the candidates.

He said he felt the existing BN elected representatives should be fielded again.

However, if any of them was dropped he should not resort to doing anything that could affect the party but instead support the new BN candidate.

Meanwhile, Abu Zahar said the state government would strive to ensure that the mangrove forest along Melaka's coast was not affected by its proposed reclamation works.

He said the government had decided that reclamation could be carried out on condition that it was at least 750 metres away from the mainland.

-- BERNAMA

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