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Mahathir-Umno

UMNO EXPELS SIX FOR OPPOSING PARTY IN SABAH POLLS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council tonight expelled six members for opposing the party in the March 12-13 Sabah state election, including five who stood against its candidates.

Five of them contested as opposition or independent candidates and one supported an opposition party, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said after chairing the Supreme Council's meeting here.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi identified those expelled as Abdul Rahman Yaakob, Mazri @ Murudi Nasir, Abdillah Abdul Hamid, Cleffus Sipaun Mojingul, Ridi Ali Wangsa and Ansari Abdullah. Ansari was the one who supported an opposition party in the polls.

Abdullah, who is joint chairman of Umno's Management and Disciplinary Committee, said of the six only Ansari could appeal for reinstatement.

When asked whether action would be taken against Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's former political secretary Mohamed Ezam Mohamed Noor, Dr Mahathir said this was up to the Attorney-General.

"I think it is up to the Attorney-General to decide whether he has broken any law, whether there is a need to take action," he said.

Mohamed Ezam returned home on Sunday after being away from the country for about six months, during which time he made statements attacking the government and its leaders.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council congratulated Umno and the Sabah Barisan Nasional for BN's victory in the Sabah polls.

BN won 31 of the 48 seats, with Umno sweeping all the 24 seats it contested.

He said the meeting also congratulated Datuk Osu Sukam on his appointment as the new Sabah Chief Minister under the state's system of rotating the chief minister's post.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also analysed BN's victory in the election.

-- BERNAMA

TM YBY