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Umno-Lawyers

UMNO NAMES ITS PANEL OF LAWYERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 31 (Bernama) -- Umno today named 20 lawyers to represent it in taking legal actions against those defaming the party and its leaders.

Umno anti-defamation committee chairman Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali said among the 20 on its panel of lawyers include Umno's official lawyer Datuk Zaki Azmi from Rashid & Lee.

The others are Mohd Noor Amin Mohd Noor Khan (Amin, Yap & Co) as panel secretary, Muhammad Shafee Abdullah (Shafee & Co), Mohd Maydien Tapil Ahmad (Maydien & Associates), Datuk M. Kayveas (Blanche Kayveas & Co), Datuk Vijay Kumar Natarajan (Kumar Jaspal Quah & Aishah), Darryl Goon (Raja Darryl & Loh), Tengku Mohamed Fauzi Tengku Abdul Hamid (Tengku Mohamed & Alan Lim), Appandi Ali (Appandi Ali & Co) and Mohamed Razif Abdul Aziz (Aziz & Mazlan).

Also on the panel are Muhamad Burok (Abu Talib Shahrom & Zahari), Datuk Abu Zahar Nika Ujang (Abu Zahar Syed Mohd Fuad & Partners), Halizah Abdul Halim (H.A. Halim Thye & Co), Noh Omar (Ahmad Famy & Noh), Muhammad Nadzri Hamzah (Nadzri Hamzah & Co), Ubaidillah Awang (Ubaidillah Aziz & Co), Wan Nadhri Mohd Fauzi (Wan Nadhri Tan & Goh), Mohamad Kamaluddin Zainoorin Madros (Kamaluddin Zainoorin & Co), Hermes Media Putra Ibrahim (Chooi Shee Hong & Hermes) and Ahmad Shafie (Aziz Zakaria Shaiful & Wan).

Ibrahim said the panel of lawyers named had been approved by the Umno Supreme Council in its March 17 meeting.

He said the panel would on their own gather information on defamation and running down of the party's leaders as well to study information provided by the committee for legal action to be taken against those involved.

The committee was now looking into 30 cases of contempt of court and defaming leaders, Ibrahim told reporters after chairing the first meeting between the committee and the panel of lawyers here.

So far two cases will be pursued based on police reports made on Saturday, one by Selangor Umno Youth head Jaya Kusuma Rusman against Mohamad Ezam Mohd Noor for contempt of court and the other by Wilayah Persekutuan Umno Youth head Abdul Azim Mohd Zabidi against Dr Hassan Ali for defaming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Both cases referred to articles published in Harakah, the official PAS newspaper.

Ibrahim said action would be taken in two more cases of contempt of court, one against a senior lecturer in an institution of higher learning and the other against a political leader.

He said police reports against them would be lodged soon.

He added the committee would from now on monitor each article, cassette tape and political ceramah.

-- BERNAMA

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