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Khalil-Umno

UMNO PLAYS CATALYST ROLE IN POLL PREPARATIONS, SAYS KHALIL

KEPALA BATAS, July 1 (bernama) -- Umno will serve as the catalyst for activating the Barisan Nasional (BN) machinery for the coming general election, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said.

"The moment Umno kicks off the action, then we activate the rest (of the BN component parties) into the election machinery," he said.

Describing Umno as all prepared for the general election, he said the party was in the midst of coordinating preparations by the other component parties.

Khalil, who is also Information Minister, told reporters this when approached at the Penang Golf Resort here while accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on a two-day working visit to Pulau Pinang starting today.

The prime minister's visit provided high motivation for Umno and its other coalition partners in the BN to be fully prepared for the coming polls, he said.

Their peaking enthusiasm boded well as Umno and the BN set their members in momentum to shift into high gear for the general election, said Khalil.

He also expressed confidence the coming general election would not have a divisive effect on the Malay electorate as the exercise would only be part of a process to elect the government.

Khalil said he was convinced that the Malays would close ranks again after the election and that voters at large should help realise the prime minister's wish for the BN to retain its two-thirds majority in Parliament.

He also said the Umno Supreme Council has not been informed yet of Umno Youth's plan to file a defamation suit against PAS in connection with the recent distribution of anti-Umno and defamatory tape recording of a public debate on whether students should be active in politics.

He said Umno would let its anti-defamation committee to handle the matter since the Supreme Council has let the committee to be autonomous in dealing with such cases.

-- BERNAMA

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