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Sabbaruddin

UMNO TO COUNTER SLANDERERS, SAYS SABBARUDDIN

KUALA KLawang, March 18 (Bernama) -- Umno will go all out to counter those who threaten the safety of its leaders, Umno secretary-general Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik said today.

He said this was necessary because the trouble makers had not only made slanderous statements but had also, in their taped speeches, attacked Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to the extent of calling for his assassination.

"That was why the Umno Supreme Council meeting last night decided that this has reached the level of a security threat and should not be left unchecked," he said when opening the annual Jelebu Umno divisional meeting at Dewan Simpang Pertang, near here.

He said if baseless accusations were hurled against Umno and its leaders, party members should not keep quiet but should act against those responsible.

"Our enemies are happy to see us breaking ranks and they are hurling various accusations, especially against Dr Mahathir. They are confident that if Dr Mahathir is not around...Dr Mahathir steps down...Dr Mahathir gets fed-up and leaves Umno, the opposition like DAP and PAS think Umno will become weak," he said.

"Based on this belief they constantly attack Dr Mahathir and try to tell us that we should split Dr Mahathir and Umno. We should not be hoodwinked by this strategy since, to us, anybody who hates Dr Mahathir also hates Umno."

He said Umno members should not believe their claim that they did not hate Umno because such people had ulterior motives to split the party.

Sabbaruddin said he was confident that with the spirit and commitment shown by Umno members, the party would win the next general election.

-- BERNAMA

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