

06 JUL 1999

UMNO-Khalil

UMNO'S STRENGTH IS NOT AFFECTED, SAYS KHALIL

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- UMNO's strength is not affected following the expulsion of nine of its members last night, on the contrary more members have been recruited with the establishment of 11 new branches, said its secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today.

Khalil, who is also Information Minister, said the expulsion of the nine party members was based on valid reasons because of very glaring offences, that is helping the opposition in their attempt to destroy the party.

"While we expel the nine members, we also set up 11 new branches and this means our membership continues to grow," he told reporters after launching the television promotion and the appointment of Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM) as the host broadcaster for the World Cup Golf Championship at Seri Kembangan, near here.

The Umno supreme council last night expelled nine members, namely the Tumpat division head Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar; four members from the Bukit Gantang division, Perak namely Ismail Yusof, Said Othman, Tarmizi Ismail and Jumri Sabran; Senator Hamzah Mohd Zain from the Chenderoh division, Perak; Abdul Wahab Abdullah from the Johor Baharu division; and two members from the Tumpat division, Saufi Daud (secretary) and Mohamad Noor.

The council also approved the setting up of 11 new branches, one each in Terengganu, Pulau Pinang and Perak, four in Negeri Sembilan, two in Johor and two in Sabah.

Meanwhile, Khalil said whenever there are new issues raised, Umno would go around clarifying the matter to its 2.8 million members.

"The clarification is an on-going exercise and if there is a new issue, our approach is to make clarifications through certain forums using the leadership structure from the supreme council, state, and division to reach the members," he said.

He said when the time comes and the signal is received from Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the party would mobilise its machinery to face the coming general election.

Earlier, Khalil launched the World Cup Golf video clip and handed over the promotional tape to Information Ministry Secretary General Datuk Zawawi Mahmuddin. The World Cup Golf Championship will be held at The Mines Golf Resort from Nov 18 to 21 with 64 participants from 32 countries.

-- BERNAMA

HRS NMO AO