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Mahathir-Umno/BM

CAMPAIGN DECENTLY, DR MAHATHIR ADVISES ASPIRING UMNO VEEPS

PUTRAJAYA, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Observe ethics, maintain decency and avoid using money to woo support when campaigning: these are Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice to party members vying for posts in the Umno elections in May.

Dr Mahathir said his advice, which he conveyed at yesterday's meeting of the Umno Supreme Council in Kuala Lumpur, also applied to party members securing support for the candidates.

"I've asked of them that campaigning be conducted in an orderly and ethical manner and without dangling money and other inducements," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this in an interview with Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM) after taping his Aidil Fitri message at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

He said campaigners should not be too obsessed with securing positions for their candidates at the expense of party unity.

"Loyalty to their own candidates should not be allowed to split and divide the party," he said.

Yesterday's council meeting proposed that Dr Mahathir be re-nominated to the presidency and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, nominated to the number two post.

It also unanimously adopted a stand for no contest for the posts of president and deputy president in the coming party elections.

Asked about this, Dr Mahathir said it was not the party's official decision.

The Supreme Council's decision was unanimous but this did not mean it was an official decision. It was only the council's stand, he said.

"But as a Supreme Council, it obviously has influence," he said.

The council also resolved to advise Umno divisions not to submit other nominations for the two posts, he said.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob announced after yesterday's meeting that all state Umno liaison chairmen would advise their divisions holding delegates' meeting to emulate the council in naming their nominees for the two positions.

Umno is slated to hold a three-day general assembly from May 11 to be preceded by the assemblies of the youth and women's wings on May 10.

Divisions are to hold delegates' meetings during a six-week period from Jan 16.

-- BERNAMA

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