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Mahathir-Umno

DON'T GO OVERBOARD IN JOSTLING FOR POSTS NEXT YEARM SAYS MAHATHIR

IPOH, July 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Umno members not to go overboard in jostling for the division chief's posts in the divisional elections next year.

The prime minister and party president said he did not want a lose-lose situation where those did not win the posts would leave the party, thus reducing its membership.

So far the party had not decided on any rules for campaigning for the divisional elections next year, he said in response to questions from reporters after chairing the first Umno supreme council meeting to be held outside Kuala Lumpur.

On the position of Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Suleiman Mohamed who were not retained as the Umno liaison chiefs of Pahang and the Federal Territory respectively but were instead appointed deputies, he said this was not the first time such an action as taken.

"Those who do not become chairmen are appointed deputies but are capable of playing the same role," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that the menteri besar and other Umno leaders holding government posts who were not appointed to the surpeme council would also play a role in the bureaux that would be set up.

He said the selection of those who did not have a chance to contest for the seats but who the party felt had made contributions had forced the party not to appoint others.

Today's meeting was attended by only five of the 10 newly appointed council members because some were overseas and had duties that could not be avoided, he said.

Those absent were Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Datuk Seri Osu Sukam.

Dr Mahathir said that besides the fortnightly supreme council meetings, the party would also hold a meeting to discuss specific issues like religion and PAS' abuses and other actions.

A meeting of the Barisan Nasional council would also be held soon and the date would be announced later.

On the choice of Perak as venue for the first council meeting to be held outside Kuala Lumpur, he said: "Perak is near and the meeting had to be fixed quickly. We didn't want to go so far. That might cause logistics problems, nothing very mysterious about it.

Dr Mahathir said the party had yet to decide on the next state to hold the meeting and a special schedule would be drawn up to give the state liaison committees time to prepare.

He said all the council members attending the meetings in the states would visit and meet the Umno members at all levels and the people without being surrounded by certain officials only.

-- BERNAMA

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