

16 JAN 2000

Khalil-Umno

DON'T TURN CONTESTS FOR PARTY POSTS TO PERSONAL CONFLICTS - KHALIL

KUANTAN, Jan 16 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today advised Wanita Umno members not to turn contests for party positions into personal conflicts.

He feared Umno would face serious consequences if the race for party posts ended up in personal clashes among aspirants.

"I wish to advise Wanita Umno leaders to exercise restraint by limiting their statements from turning personal. I'm not saying they've gone personal but they seem to be heading towards that direction," he told reporters at a Hari Raya Aidil Fitri gathering in Kampung Sungai Ular here.

Khalil said contests for party posts must be carried out in line with established procedures without resorting to accusations personal in nature.

He said contestants must think of what they could contribute to the party and whether their contributions would be effective or otherwise.

He urged the movement's leaders not to be excited with the party polls in May as Umno was preparing a post-mortem report on the results of the Nov 29 ggeneral election.

"If we are too excited, our promise to do the post-mortem will be forgotten until after the Umno General Assembly and this thing (post-mortem) will become stale," said Khalil, who is Information Minister.

He did not want jockeying for party positions be given priority to the extent of members forgetting about the contributory factors leading to the reduced majority obtained by Umno candidates in the last election.

He said the waning support for Umno in the recent general election was a fact that needed immediate attention.

"Umno President (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) always say winning party positions will be meaningless if the party lost in the general election. If our party loses, what's the purpose of holding the posts as we cannot deliver the mandate given to us because we have no power," he said.

Asked to comment on the support expressed by State Wanita Umno chiefs to Wanita Umno head Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman to defend her post, Khalil said such pledges were premature as divisional meetings have not started.

"I urge State Wanita chiefs to respect party procedures. They can voice support only after the divisional meetings have been held," he said.

It was reported recently that 11 State Wanita chiefs have expressed their full support to Siti Zaharah to defend her post in the party elections.

However, several divisional heads including Wanita Umno deputy chief Datuk Napsiah Omar denied the pledges of support as the movement had not made any stand with regards to challenging the top post.

Umno branches have until Feb 29 to hold their meetings while divisions would convene theirs from March 1 to April 30.

-- BERNAMA

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