

04 JAN 2000

NO-CONTEST PROPOSAL CAN STRENGTHEN PARTY UNITY, SAYS ISA

PORT DICKSON, Jan 4 (Bernama) -- Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said the Supreme Council's stand that there be no contest for the top two posts in Umno is aimed at strengthening the party.

The Supreme Council's stand did not mean that Umno did not practise democracy because party members should place party unity above everything else, he said.

Yesterday, the Supreme Council proposed that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be re-nominated for the party presidency and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi be nominated for the deputy presidency, and that there should be no other nominations for these two posts.

The party would not lose although some quarters might not be happy with the proposal, he told reporters after presenting Hari Raya aid to the poor and elderly at Kampung Sungai Raya and Kampung Bukit Tembok in Pasir Panjang, near here.

Isa said a contest for the top two posts might cause rifts which would take time to mend.

-- BERNAMA

AZ YBY