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Ali-Umno

NO DIRECTIVE TO NOMINATE SAME PEOPLE FOR VEEP POSTS, MT SEATS - ALI

MELAKA, March 4 (Bernama) -- Melaka Umno did not pass a resolution instructing the five divisions in the state to nominate the same candidates for the three vice-president's posts and 25 elected supreme council seats.

Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam said the divisions were free to name any aspirant of their choice for vice-president and to the supreme council.

The State Umno only decided that divisions should renominate Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the president's post and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the deputy presidency.

The decision was in accordance with the supreme council's advice that there should be no contest for the two top posts in the May 11 party elections, he told reporters here today.

Ali, who is also Melaka Umno liaison chief, earlier attended the opening of the building for the Melaka Council of Datuks by the Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin.

The State Umno also left it to the divisions' discretion whether to opt for secret ballots or show of hands to make nominations and select delegates for the Umno General Assembly.

"What's important is that the division meetings must be conducted in accordance with established procedures and party constitution. The meetings must go on peacefully with no commotion," he said.

Ali said the Batu Berendam division, which he heads, would hold its delegates' conference tomorrow while the other four would convene theirs on March 12.

He said no request had been made to the four divisions to follow the same nominations made by the Batu Berendam division.

Ali also said 262 Umno branches in Melaka had completed their meetings except for two branches in the Jasin division which had been ordered to reconvene their meeting.

"This is a good record. Minor commotions in the two branches did not mar the smooth conduct of the meetings state-wide," he said.

In his speech, Ali urged the Datuks in the state to use their position and experience to help the needy.

The proposal to set up a foundation of Melaka Datuks was a move in the right direction to help the poor, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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