

09/05/2000

No evidence of vote-buying

Izatun Hanim Shari

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Checks by Umno headquarters in major hotels in the city over the past few days have shown no incidence of vote-buying for this week's party election.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said: "We've monitored the situation in the big city hotels and found nothing to suggest that money was flying all over in the past few days."

He said attempts to resort to money politics were markedly subdued this year as delegates were well aware that party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad meant business and was determined to combat this menace.

Khalil, who is Information Minister, told reporters this when approached while inspecting preparations for the Umno General Assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre today.

He said money politics does not guarantee victory for a candidate.

"This is because if a delegate had accepted money from one candidate he could also have accepted it from another. And eventually who will the delegate vote for since he had accepted money from a few candidates?"

Khalil also reminded those involved in vote counting during the general assembly not to bring in handphones to the vote counting area at Dewan Tun Razak III.

He said the move was crucial to ensure a smooth process.

He added that he was satisfied with the voting area as it was well equipped with facilities like prayer room, toilets and rest room.

The hall will be guarded by the Umno Election committee.

The four-day assembly will be preceded with a briefing as well as some important announcements involving the selection criteria of the candidates by Dr Mahathir tomorrow.

The general assembly will begin with the Wanita and Youth movements meeting that will be opened by Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Wednesday before the voting.

The highlight of the general assembly is on Thursday with elections for the three vice-presidents and 25 Supreme Council members.

(END)