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Mahathir-Malays

UMNO MAY BE PREPARED TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH PAS AND KEADILAN, SAYS PM

ALOR SETAR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the party is prepared to consider the possibility of holding discussions with PAS and Keadilan in efforts to strengthen the unity of the Malays.

"We will consider having discussions if the situation is conducive," he told reporters on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport in Kepala Batas near here this afternoon for a brief visit.

He was asked to comment on a proposal by an academician, Prof Datuk Ahmad Fawzi Mohamed Basri, deputy vice chancellor (students' affairs) of Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), recently that Umno should hold discussions with PAS and Keadilan to strengthen Malay unity.

Dr Mahathir said that Umno had always stressed on unity and never promoted divisiveness among its members.

Responding to another question, he said that the closed-door meeting of 35 Umno Supreme Council members in Putrajaya yesterday was held to discuss internal party problems.

"No special decision was made. It does not involve others," he said.

Asked whether problems in the party were serious, the Umno president said: "The problems are quite serious. I spoke on how to overcome them and the future of the party and the need to continue with our work for the sake of the party. They (Supreme Council members) provided feedback".

To another question, Dr Mahathir who is Kubang Pasu Umno division head, said that the vacant post of Umno division information chief would be filled soon.

"We will appoint someone. We are now thinking about it," he said.

Datuk Shuib Endut, 61, recently resigned from the post which he held for six years to give way to younger people.

-- BERNAMA

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