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Umno-Illegal

CLAIM ON ILLEGAL DIVISIONS NOT TRUE, SAYS SABAH UMNO SECRETARY

KOTA KINABALU, April 1 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno secretary Datuk Yahya Husin today denied allegations that 13 of the 20 Umno divisions in the state have been rendered "illegal" because of their failure to submit annual reports to the Registrar of Societies.

"All transactions of Umno divisions in this state have been conducted properly," he told reporters after opening the Wanita Umno annual meeting of the Penampang division here.

As such, the question of failing to send reports to the Registrar of Societies did not arise, he said.

Yahya said this when asked to comment on newspaper reports today quoting an Umno member as saying that 13 Umno divisions in Sabah had failed to send annual reports to the Registrar of Societies.

Silam division member Abdul Mutalib Mohamed Daud, who made the allegation, also called on the Supreme Council to suspend the 13 divisions, which he identified as Marudu, Bandau, Tuaran, Kinabalu, Tanjung Aru, Penampang, Papar, Sipitang, Keningau, Sandakan, Silam, Semporna and Tawau.

Abdul Mutalib said this was to avoid a situation where losers in the division elections would drag Umno to court over the legal status of the divisions.

He said he had lodged a complaint with the Registrar of Societies to call for verification of the records of the divisions involved.

Under the Societies Act 1966, any organisation which failed to submit annual reports, which include minutes of the general meeting, annual statement of accounts and a list of committee members, in four years would be considered non-existent.

In his speech, Yahya advised Wanita Umno to accept Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to continue with the rotation system for the Sabah chief minister's post.

"That is a decision of the party leadership and therefore we should abide by it," he said.

Meanwhile, Sabah Wanita Umno information chief Rosimah Zakaria said there would be no contest for the Wanita chief's post in seven divisions -- Papar, Sipitang, Beaufort, Kinabalu, Kinabatangan, Tawau and Tanjung Aru.

-- BERNAMA

NT YBY