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Divisional accounts in order, says Sabah Umno secretary

KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - Sabah Umno secretary Datuk Yahya Hussin today dismissed a claim that 13 divisions in the State could not hold their meetings for failing to submit their yearly accounts to the Registrar of Societies.

"Every year we hold meetings and we submit our report (to the ROS) ... this is the normal process. We do not have any illegal branches or divisions in Sabah," he said.

He also said last month's branch meetings in the State were carried out without any problem.

Yahya was asked to comment on a report carried in a local daily today quoting Silam Umno division member Abdul Mutalib Mohamed Daud who said the Umno supreme council should suspend the meetings of the 13 divisions for not sending their annual accounts since 1991.

The 13 divisions are Marudu, Bandau, Tuaran, Kota Belud, Tanjung Aru, Penampang, Papar, Sipitang, Keningau, Sandakan, Silam, Semporna and Tawau.

Abdul Mutalib was quoted as saying that he had sent a letter to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and a protest to the ROS regarding the issue.

Yahya, who is Penampang Umno division head, said this to newsmen after officiating the Penampang Wanita division meeting at the SESB hall in Karamunsing, here.

In another development, Sabah Umno Wanita chief Datuk Dayang Mahani Pengiran Ahmad Raffae looks set to lock horns with incumbent Datuk Sapawi Ahmad for the Umno Sipitang division chief's post.

She told reporters at the Kota Kinabalu International Airport here that she had more than 40 nominations from branches in Sipitang.

"I am just offering myself for the post and not for selfish reasons. I hope to be a pioneer for women in Sabah Umno by being the first (female) division head," said Dayang Mahani, who is the former State Assemblywoman for Lumadan.

She urged the grassroots members not to be fooled by claims that she had negotiated with Sapawi and had agreed to let him retain the post and she would become the deputy head.

Dayang Mahani also claimed that a report had been sent to the party supreme council that questioned the validity of a Sipitang divisional committee meeting which was held ahead of the Sipitang branch meetings.

According to her, the divisional committee had not given its approval.

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