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Khalil briefs PM on outcome of preliminary talks with Pas

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno secretary-general, Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, this morning briefed Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the outcome of yesterday's preliminary discussion with Pas on the proposed Malay unity talks.

Khalil was joined at the briefing at the Prime Minister's Department in Putrajaya by another member of Umno's technical committee, Datuk Dusuki Ahmad, who is also Dr Mahathir's political secretary.

A source said Khalil, who met the Prime Minister for 30 minutes, will prepare a report on the matter for deliberation at the party's Supreme Council meeting tomorrow.

The Supreme Council is then expected to discuss the requests put forth by Pas on matters it wants included on the agenda of the proposed talks.

Tomorrow's meeting is also expected to decide whether to accept Pas' proposal that the Malay unity talks be expanded to cover national unity.

In the first technical committee meeting to lay the groundwork for the talks yesterday, both parties arrived at an agreement on several matters.

Khalil led a four-member team to the three-hour meeting, while Pas was represented by its secretary-general Nasharuddin Mat Isa and three central working committee members.

Meanwhile, it is understood that Nasharuddin has also briefed Pas president Datuk Fadzil Noor, who in turned gave the green light for the second meeting of the technical committee to be held next week.

The outcome of the second round of discussions will be presented at the party's central working committee meeting which is scheduled to convene on Feb 18.

Pas sources revealed that during the preliminary discussion, both sides had agreed that the proposed talks would neither be on Malay unity nor national unity.

"Instead, both parties agreed that the proposed talks be simply on unity," one of the source said.

Apart from matters concerning the proposed talks, the Umno Supreme Council meeting tomorrow is also expected to discuss the controversy over the gathering organised by the Badan Bertindak Melayu (Malay Action Front) which was held at the Putra World Trade Centre last Sunday.

The gathering entitled Takkan Melayu Hilang Di Dunia was originally organised to push for Malay unity.

Instead it became an Umno leadership and Government-bashing session.

Two Umno Supreme Council members Datuk Khalid Yunus and Datuk Suleiman Mohamed who were present during the BBM gathering are expected to brief the Council on what transpired.

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