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Members who fail to get party nominations should give way, says PM

SEREMBAN, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised Umno members who did not receive enough nominations to contest in division elections next month not to create problems for the party.

"By right, when one does not get nominated, he should not cause problems. He should just give way," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said this in response to questions from reporters after a two-hour dialogue with about 600 leaders and members from the Jempol and Jelebu divisions at the Jempol district office in Serting, about 80km from here today.

He was asked to comment on Beserah State Assemblyman Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman's intention to give up his seat.

Yesterday Fauzi, 55, said he decided to resign as Beserah State Assemblyman because the majority of Umno branches in Beserah did not nominate him to defend the post of Kuantan division chief in next month's elections.

According to the Kuantan Umno division office, Fauzi has received only nine nominations so far compared to division vice-chief Datuk Faisal Abdullah's 29 and division deputy chief Datuk Wan Adnan Wan Mamat's 20.

Fauzi made the decision after lodging a police report against Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob concerning matters when Khalil was Pahang Menteri Besar.

Dr Mahathir said he would study details of Fauzi's report against Khalil and his (Fauzi's) intention to resign as State Assemblyman before any action can be taken.

The Prime Minister said he had not received any copy of the police report made by Fauzi or the letter of resignation.

"We have to look at the matter whether there is any basis or not," he added.

Asked to comment on Khalil's position following the report, the Umno president said there would be no change.

As to whether Khalil had briefed him about Fauzi's allegations, Dr Mahathir said Khalil had done so.

On whether Umno would take action in overcoming this matter, he said the party would only deal with matters concerning it and not with matters that were outside its control.

Asked whether he thought this latest development would adversely affect Umno's image, he said: "We will see."

He went on to explain that in this matter, it seemed that Fauzi was disappointed as he did not get the support in his division.

Dr Mahathir was also asked whether he personally thought that Fauzi's letter to relinquish his State Assemblyman's post should be accepted. He said: "We will think about it when we receive a copy of the letter."

On his meeting with Umno members and leaders, he said it was one in a series of meetings he would be having throughout the country on his nationwide tour.

He said one of the things he touched on today was the ruling by the Conference of Rulers which does not object to the use of the word Islam in the names of organisations and political parties.

In this respect, he said, the Government was studying whether there was a case for it to act against Amanat Hadi (Hadi's decree) and that one of the things looked into was to find out whether it breached the law.

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