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Mahathir-Sarawak

UMNO NOT INVOLVED IN SARAWAK ELECTION, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Umno will not be directly involved in the upcoming Sarawak state election, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"I wish to say here clearly that Umno is not involved in the Sarawak state election," said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president.

"We don't support any party that claims it is from Umno or is supported by Umno. Umno is not backing any party in Sarawak in this election," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council.

Dr Mahathir, however, stressed that Umno would through the Barisan Nasional support other BN component parties taking part in the election.

On the likelihood of any Umno member contesting in the election, Dr Mahathir said: "If he contests then he is not an Umno member. He can continue to say he is Umno member but we don't accept him and will tell the electorate he is not an Umno member."

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said he would confirm the list of proposed BN candidates for the election except in the case of any person found to be unsuitable.

The Sarawak state legislature was dissolved today and the Election Commission is expected to announce the polling date later this week.

-- BERNAMA

SR CS AFY