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Umno-PAS

UMNO AND PAS TO MEET ON THURSDAY TO PREPARE FOR UNITY TALKS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and his PAS counterpart, Nasharuddin Mat Isa, will meet on Thursday to lay the groundwork for the proposed Malay unity talks between the leaders of the two parties.

However, the venue for their meeting, aimed at ironing out the format and the agenda for the meeting between Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and PAS chief Datuk Fadzil Noor, has not been fixed yet, the Information Minister's press secretary, Zukri Valentino, told Bernama, today.

"Tan Sri Khalil will lead a four-member team to the meeting," Zukri said.

Zukri said Khalil had informed him that Dr Mahathir would "most probably announce the names of the three other members of the team from Umno, tomorrow".

He said Khalil suggested to Nasharuddin through a letter that they meet on Thursday and the PAS secretary-general agreed during a telephone conversation between them today.

Last Saturday, PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said that his party was fully committed to the Malay unity talks with Umno.

Fadzil had expressed the hope that the outcome of the meeting would bring good to the people and the country.

Last Jan 13, Nasharuddin was quoted as saying that PAS had received a letter from Dr Mahathir inviting the party to take part in the Malay unity talks, and PAS had replied agreeing to participate.

Nasharuddin had said that he would discuss the agenda of the proposed talks with Khalil and later refer the outcome of their discussion to the PAS Syura Committee for a decision.

PAS had stressed that the talks should be on national unity instead of Malay unity of which Umno said it had no objection.

Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) which was also invited by Dr Mahathir to participate in the unity talks rejected the offer, claiming that it was not a Malay-based party.

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