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Khalil-Election

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL HAS NOT DECIDED TO DEFER PARTY POLLS, SAYS KHALIL

IPOH, June 27 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council has not decided whether to go ahead or postpone the party elections next year till the general election was over, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

He said the actual general election schedule would be referred to the council to make a decision on the party polls as the matter was not touched by delegates at the just-concluded 56th Umno General Assembly.

He said Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did make a statement before the assembly asking delegates for their opinion on whether to continue or defer the 2003 party election.

"Since no delegate spoke on the issue, a decision has to be made. The supreme council will make an appropriate decision to guide the divisions on what to do," he said.

Earlier, Khalil, who is Information Minister, led a delegation of the National Information Council to call on Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali at his office. The council held its meeting here today.

Khalil said the council had not officially discussed the party election issue although there were suggestions to postpone it to enable Umno to focus full attention on the general election.

Amendments to the Umno Constitution provides for the triennial election for the posts of president, deputy president, vice-presidents, youth and wanita chiefs and supreme council members be delayed up to 18 months.

Khalil said Umno had its hierarchy that was capable of managing the party affairs and the Umno management committee had the approach to discharge its duties efficiently if party polls were postponed.

Tajol Rosli said the Perak Umno liaison committee and grassroots party leaders and members were of the opinion that the party election be delayed till after the general election.

"Party election may cause a crisis and this may lead to a split. What's important is to win the general election and not party election," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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