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Umno-Sabah

UMNO LEADERSHIP TRANSITION WILL BE SMOOTH, SAYS MUSA

KOTA KINABALU, April 9 (Bernama) -- Sabah Umno liaison chairman Datuk Musa Aman said today that Umno has a tradition of carrying out leadership changes in a smooth and amicable manner acceptable to all members.

He said that there was no reason to believe that the tradition would not be maintained when the time comes for Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to step down as party president.

"I am making this reminder because I do not want Umno members to be distracted by the propaganda churned out by PAS through Harakah and Harakah-online," he said in statement issued here.

Musa was commenting on the publication of a survey purportedly showing deputy Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi trailing Umno vice presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin in popularity as successors to Dr Mahathir when the Umno president retires.

Musa, who is Sabah Finance Minister, said: "The Harakah article is mischievous and obviously aimed at stirring up trouble within Umno ranks."

PAS knew it was steadily losing credibility among the people and had deliberately picked on this issue to create misunderstanding among Umno members, he said.

This ploy would not work, he said, if Umno members refrain from reacting to such "sublime provocations from PAS."

Now was not the time for Umno members to be distracted by the question of leadership change, he said.

-- BERNAMA

JS RM