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Khalil-Lobbying

LOBBYING FOR SEATS NOT WIDESPREAD, SAYS UMNO SEC-GEN

KUANTAN, May 3 (Bernama) -- The practice of lobbying for seats in Umno following the electoral redelineation exercise is not rampant, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

Nevertheless, Umno headquarters had started issuing a circular to remind divisions and state liaison committees to stop any lobbying for state or parliamentary seats, he said.

The reminder was merely to tell those indulging in lobbying to immediately stop such activities as it was feared that they could spread to other divisions, he said.

"It cannot be denied that it (lobbying) has happened in some places, and if such preventive measures are not taken, it might cause problems. All parties should abide by the decisions to be taken by the Supreme Council," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the Terengganu-Pahang History Seminar 2003, organised by the Terengganu/Pahang Branch of the Malaysian History Society here.

In PASIR PUTEH, Kelantan Umno chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamad said party members aspiring to contest in the next general election should abide by the party's guidelines and not resort to lobbying.

He said members would be wasting their time if they dropped names of state and federal leaders in a bid to be picked as candidates.

"I have not encountered any lobbying activities by Umno leaders in Kelantan. There have been general suggestions but no one has come to lobby with me personally," he told reporters after opening the Kelantan Water Festival.

Earlier, when opening the seminar, Khalil, who is Information Minister, said there were moves to produce a film or documentary based on the struggles of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the country's leader.

Several parties, including the government itself, were actively working on coming up with such a script to realise this project, he said.

"The prime minister is a leader of integrity we can all be proud of, and therefore this step is being undertaken to show Malaysians' appreciation for his deeds and sacrifices," he said.

Meanwhile, Khalil also urged fishermen to seize the opportunities available and to be proactive in their work so as to improve their socio-economic standard.

Fishermen should continue to make efforts to improve themselves, and the government would always provide support in the form of financial, training and technical assistance, he said when opening the annual general meeting of the Kuantan Fishermen Association here.

-- BERNAMA

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