

15 OCT 2003

Khalil-Mahathir

NO SUCH THING AS FAREWELL MESSAGE TO UMNO FROM DR MAHATHIR- KHALIL

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will graciously give his advice and ideas even after retirement and hence there is no such thing as a farewell message from him to Umno members.

Umno Secretary-General Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the Umno Supreme Council meeting on Oct 30 was a normal end-of-month meeting but since it fell in the month of Ramadan there would be breaking of fast and terawih prayers.

Tan Sri Khalil was speaking to reporters after launching the book "Dr Mahathir From An Arab and Islamic Perspective" written by Dr Abdulrahim Abdulwahid of the United Arab Emirates here.

Like in previous years, Umno had also invited its veterans and corporate leaders for the breaking of fast, he said.

Asked whether any other function had been organised for Dr Mahathir who retires on Oct 31, Tan Sri Khalil said from the government side Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samudin Osman "could inform you about that."

On Dr Mahathir's advice to long-serving Barisan Nasional leaders to step down, he hoped the leaders concerned would take note of it "...when we come to the general election...and this also depends on our leader who will take over. Choosing candidates and assigning posts...all this is the prerogative of the leader," he said.

On the book, he said it referred to Malaysia as a model country both as a developing economy and as an Islamic nation.

Tan Sri Khalil also launched another book titled "Mahathir The Secret of the Malaysian Success" authored by Bosnia-Herzegovina Ambassador to Malaysia Hajrudin Somun.

-- BERNAMA

SHS AZZ AAM