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Syed Hamid-PM

RESPECT PM'S DECISION, FOCUS ON POLLS - SYED HAMID

PORT DICKSON, April 13 (Bernama) -- Umno leaders and members should respect the decision and stand of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to retire and step down as Prime Minister and Umno president in October, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said today.

"I think Dr Mahathir has made a decision and has repeatedly stated his stand. So, we should not trouble him, we should respect his decision.

"He has said it many times that he will not change his mind. He had announce his decision publicly, he has made a compromise, although he wanted to resign then (at the Umno General Assembly last year), but on the persuasion of Umno leaders and members, he agreed to wait until October," he said.

He said this when asked to comment on a motion passed by the Tawau Umno division in Sabah yesterday proposing that all Umno divisions in the country should unanimously request and appeal to Dr Mahathir to retract his intention to quit as Prime Minister and Umno president.

Syed Hamid was met after opening the Teluk Kemang Umno Youth, Wanita and Puteri Umno delegates meeting. Present was Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad, who is also the division chief.

Tawau Umno chief Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh, in his speech at the division meeting, was reported to have said that the division felt the country still needed Dr Mahathir's leadership and guidance and appealed to him to continue holding the government and party posts.

Syed Hamid said the issue should not be raised again and instead Umno leaders and members should devote full attention and energy to face the next general election.

"Don't create problems to Umno members," he said.

Earlier, in his speech, Syed Hamid, an Umno supreme council member, advised party members to continue to work hard without expecting rewards.

He said they must realise that they were working for the party's interests and pursuing the struggles of the race.

"The struggle to uplift the integrity of our race must be continued so that our race will continue to be respected in future," he added.

-- BERNAMA

APG TS