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Umno-Khalil

UMNO HQ HAS NOT RECEIVED "NO CONTEST" MOTION FOR TOP POSTS - KHALIL

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- The Umno headquarters has not received any motion calling for "no contest" for the president and deputy president's posts in the party elections next year, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

"So far, the secretary-general's office has not received any notice for any motion to be tabled at the General Assembly this time," he said.

According to procedures, any emergency motion, if any, must be submitted in writing to the permanent chairman, he told reporters when asked whether the party had received any motion to avoid a contest for the top two posts to preserve unity in Umno.

Earlier, he visited the media centre at the Putra World Trade Centre, the venue of the four-day Umno General Assembly.

"If there is an emergency motion, it must be notified in writing to the permanent chairman and according to established practice, the permanent chairman will discuss with the president and the supreme council.

"Whatever emergency motion must be in writing," said Khalil, who is also Information Minister.

Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in an interview with Mingguan Malaysia on Sunday, had expressed his fear that the deputy president's post might be contested when Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi took over the reins of the party and government in October.

Khalil said that in previous Umno general assemblies, delegates spoke about not having any contest for the top two posts, but it was not put in writing.

He also said delegates would pay rapt attention to the contents of the presidential address as this assembly would be the last for Dr Mahathir, who would retire as Prime Minister and Umno President, in October.

"I cannot predict anything because the mood now is to focus on the reality that this will be the last time the president will be opening the Umno General Assembly," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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