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Khalil-Communication

UMNO TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS WITH ITS OVERSEAS CLUBS

JAKARTA, June 29 (Bernama) -- Umno will set up more liaison offices for Umno clubs overseas for more effective communication with its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said here last night.

One of the proposed offices would be in Indonesia where there were many Umno clubs, he said.

"I will propose this to the supreme council because in Indonesia we have 15 Umno clubs among the more than 1,200 students studying in various universities and should have a liaison office," he said at a dinner with about 30 Malaysian students and Umno club members at the Malaysian embassy, here.

Present were his wife, Puan Sri Zurina Kassim, and Malaysian ambassador to Indonesia, Datuk Hamidon Ali.

Khalil, who is Information Minister, said a site would be picked for the office based on the club membership in the area.

Umno set up its first overseas liaison office, similar to that in the states, in London this year to serve several Umno clubs in the United Kingdom.

Khalil said more students were joining Umno, which was an encouraging sign, as it showed the recognition among the young generation of Umno's role in developing the country.

He said they should realise that there was no alternative to Umno to bring the country to a brighter future.

He said that although Malaysia was facing a political transition with the imminent retirement of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as prime minister in October, it did not mean that the country's policies would change as the new leader, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, would continue with its struggle.

The people should be thankful for the smooth leadership transition in Malaysia because there was no political chaos like in some other countries, he added.

He said that in no other country had a retiring leader named a successor who was subsequently approved by all the party members as had happened in Umno.

Khalil arrived here Wednesday leading a delegation of more than 50 senior ministry officials, film-makers and advertisement producers on a weeklong visit to Indonesia to foster ties and promote cooperation between the two countries in the film, drama and advertising industry.

He said that besides stepping up cooperation between the information departments of the two countries, the ministry also wanted to see wider cooperation between the Malaysian national news agency, Bernama, and Antara, its counterpart here,

"Bernama has a big programme which includes opening more offices abroad, especially in capital cities where there are extensive exchanges of news," he said.

He said that this cooperation should be given priority in view that Indonesia was Malaysia's closest and most important neighbour and the two had many similarities.

-- BERNAMA

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