

Stop Speculating About Sacking Of UMNO Leaders - Ahmad Zahid
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PUTRAJAYA, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- All parties should stop expecting the worst and speculating that there would be sackings within UMNO, especially of members of the Supreme Council, said UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, said the question of sacking had never been discussed in any party meeting.

"I have not been informed (about the sackings) and it (the party) never discussed about any sacking. So, do not expect the worst and speculate," he said.

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Home Minister, was speaking to reporters after chairing the first Central Disaster Management and Aid Committee special meeting since he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle on July 28.

He was commenting on a statement by UMNO Youth Head Khairy Jamaluddin who said he believed no senior party leader would be sacked from the party at the Supreme Council meeting tomorrow.

Earlier, at a press conference here today, Khairy, who is also Youth and Sports Minister, had said: "I am 100 per cent confident that no senior leader will be sacked tomorrow".

Asked about the possibility that there would be changes in UMNO's leadership, Ahmad Zahid hinted that there were no efforts towards that end now.

Commenting on the UMNO political bureau meeting yesterday, Ahmad Zahid said the meeting was chaired by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who as party president was also the chairman of the bureau.

Ahmad Zahid also clarified that there was no issue about Najib, who is also the Prime Minister, taking over the duties of bureau chairman from UMNO Deputy President Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"By convention, the chairman of the political bureau is the deputy president of UMNO, but under the party constitution, there is no specific provision that the deputy president be chairman of the bureau on this matter (the meeting held yesterday)," he said.

Meanwhile, asked to comment on the actions of certain parties who wanted to hold a rally known as the Red Shirts rally on Sept 16, Ahmad Zahid said he was leaving the matter to the police.

"The government has no views. From the view of operations, we leave it 100 per cent to the police to take action especially about permits and enforcement action," he said.

The "Himpunan Rakyat Bersatu" rally is said to include UMNO and PAS members in a show of solidarity against acts by participants of the Bersih 4 rally in the city at the end of last month who stomped on the photographs of the prime minister and PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

The rally has been planned for 12 hours starting from noon, with participants wearing red shirts.

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