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Mahathir-Anwar

NOMINATIONS FOR ANWAR REFLECT MEMBERS' DECISION, SAYS MAHATHIR

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PULAU PINANG, Sept. 20 (Bernama) -- The large number of nominations from UMNO divisions for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the post of deputy president in the party elections in November reflected the decision of party members, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister, who is also UMNO President, said: "It is the decision of the party members and it is up to them to make the nominations.

"In politics and the democratic practice, such things can happen."

He was commenting on the 114 nominations for Anwar, the Finance Minister, from divisions which have held their delegates meetings so far compared to the seven for incumbent Deputy President Ghafar Baba.

Thirty-two more divisions are scheduled to hold their meetings by Sept. 30.

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters after attending a welcome ceremony for passengers of the Eastern and Oriental Express train here. -- more

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Mahathir-Anwar 2 (last) Pulau Pinang

On suggestions that Ghafar, who is Deputy Prime Minister, withdraw from the race in view of the small number of nominations for him, Dr Mahathir said it was inappropriate for anyone to force others to do something.

"Anyone is free to make suggestions but cannot pressure or force people to do something," he added. -- Bernama

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