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All proposals on Umno constitution to be studied

PEKAN, Sun. - Umno headquarters are compiling all proposals and views pertaining to amendments to the Umno constitution, including those from the various States.

Its vice-president, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, said the party's constitution committee headed by party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would deliberate on them on a date to be fixed.

"We have received all sorts of suggestions. The committee will look at them at one go to establish the ones which are viable," he told reporters after opening the Pekan Umno annual delegates meeting.

Najib, also Pekan Umno chief, said proposals received so far included having elections for all posts in Umno be held once every four or five years instead of the present three years as suggested by Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and abolishment of the 10 bonus votes for each nomination received by candidates vying for president and deputy party president's posts.

He said the exercise to amend the party constitution would take some time and it was unlikely to be carried out this year.

Wan Mokhtar, in suggesting that the election for all posts in Umno be held once every four or five years on Friday, said party members were involved in too many polls before the party's general election.

"Before the general election, we are involved in the branch-level election, next year in the divisional election and the following year the general assembly election," he said, adding that party members needed more time for other matters.

Najib said any motion to amend the Umno constitution must have the endorsement of party members through a special general assembly.

"It can either be done simultaneously with the general assembly or separately.

"It is up to the party leadership to decide.

"At this stage, I cannot comment or give my views on each and every proposal.

"We have to look at them as a whole.

"This can be done only next year as we have to compile all the suggestions first," he said.

On the divisional election next year, Najib said the management committee would come up with another guideline on the dos and don'ts to complement the earlier one.

"Members have understood the obvious restrictions.

"The additional guideline will give a clear definition on the grey areas, like whether the holding of kenduri at home can be considered a campaign," he said.

He warned members that the disciplinary committee would be firm with those flouting the guidelines and that no prior notice or caution would be issued.

Earlier, Najib called on members to give their undivided support to the party leadership's effort in combating power abuse and graft.

"Curbing corruption should start from the grassroot level," he said, adding that members should refrain from making unreasonable demands from elected representatives as these could lead to abuse of power and corruption.

"They must know the limits," he said.

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