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Najib: Smooth transfer of power assured

UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said it has always been the party's tradition that the transfer of power of the president to his deputy is done smoothly.

Commenting on the president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's winding up of the debate, he said whoever was the deputy president would then take over the command of the party.

"This is our tradition and the transfer of power has always been smooth. We have had four past presidents and there was no problem," he said. "Dr Mahathir, who is now the fifth president, will want to ensure that his deputy will take over when the time comes".

On Umno's plan of action on Dr Mahathir's desire to see a change in the Malay values, Najib said the proposed Umno Training Centre would conduct courses that inculcated positive values among the members.

He said the centre would create quality and disciplined members.

The Prime Minister wanted the Malays to do self-inspection on their present values and undertake a reformation that would make them a better race, he said.

On the warning against Harakah, a Pas mouthpiece, not to sell the paper to the public, Najib said it had breached the condition imposed by the Home Ministry.

"Dr Mahathir as the Home Minister is asking Pas to adhere to the condition of its newspaper licence, that is to distribute the paper to their members only," he said.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Dr Mahathir's comments on reformation of the Malay culture was to ensure the concept was well understood by the delegates.

He said it was pertinent for all Umno members to understand the right approach of the party in the reformation process.

That is why, he said, Umno had proposed the establishment of a training centre to provide leadership training to all members.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said Dr Mahathir's comments on reforming the Malay culture came at the right time.

"Umno can be the backbone in the reformation process to ensure that we can bring about a higher level of success for the Malays," he said.

Abdul Ghani said tying the Malay culture with Islam was also important in ensuring that religion was not misunderstood as a mere ritual.

"There is much more to Islam, as it can provide the strength to change the Malay mindset towards reformation."

Supreme council member Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said culture played an important role as much as material development in gauging a nation's level of success.

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