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Umno yet to decide on length of term

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PEKAN, Sun. - Umno has yet to decide if the term of party office bearers be extended from three to four or five years.

Its vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said pending the decision, divisional election scheduled for next year would go on as planned.

"If there is a need to amend the constitution, Umno has to convene a special assembly first to get a consensus from members."

He said this after opening a briefing session on the party's management and administration for leaders of 106 branches in the Pekan Parliamentary constituency.

Also present were Kuala Pahang State Assemblyman Datuk Abdullah Derus, Bebar State Assemblyman Ishak Muhammad and Chini State Assemblyman Datuk Wan Razali Wan Mahusin.

Najib, who is Pekan Umno chief and Pekan MP, said the party's constitution committee, chaired by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, would look into all proposals submitted to the Umno headquarters before making a decision.

On the proposed Umno training centre, Najib said the Pahang Government had in principle approved a site in Janda Baik.

"The training centre committee will be visiting the site soon to determine its suitability," he said, adding that the committee had also met several times to discuss the curriculum.

Najib first announced the project during the Umno general assembly early this month.

It will train future party leaders and offer refresher courses to existing ones.

Courses to be offered include communication skills, management, leadership skills and other subjects covering spirituality and universal values.

Najib also said Umno members should refrain from making their own interpretations on the party's constitution as this was detrimental to the party.

"Some deliberately do so for their own gain," he said.

He said the briefing sessions were aimed to give grassroot leaders a clear understanding on the dos and don'ts.

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