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Contests will not cause rift within Umno, says Najib

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today expressed confidence that contests for the party's top posts will not cause a split within the party.

He said if contests were carried out according to ethical principles, the question of a split within the party would not arise.

Najib said what was important was for party elections to proceed smoothly, for those who lose to accept the decision, and for winners to work towards the betterment of the party.

Asked whether Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given him the blessing to contest, he said it was left to the members.

On the 25 Umno members who had replied to show-cause letters for their alleged involvement in anti-Umno activities, Najib, who is also Umno disciplinary and management committee co-chairman, said six of them would be interviewed tomorrow.

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