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Members urged to follow Dr M's advice

VICE-PRESIDENT Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has called on members to heed party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice on maintaining Umno's culture.

He said Umno's culture like the spirit of togetherness and good democratic practices would guarantee the party's success.

Abdullah said this when commenting on Dr Mahathir's winding-up speech at the party's extraordinary general meeting yesterday.

Speaking to reporters after the conclusion of the one-day meeting, he said Dr Mahathir noted that amending the Umno constitution was not enough if members failed to adhere to the party's culture.

"Whatever we do to the constitution, no matter how many times we make amendments, it will be meaningless if we do not preserve the values and culture of Umno," he said.

He also commented on the point stressed by Dr Mahathir about the need for members to be aware of modern colonialism.

"Members must also be prepared and have love for independence and our country. Only then we will be prepared to take all steps to defend the country."

Abdullah said this was very important since there were several countries attempting to strengthen their influence here.

Meanwhile, vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Umno was satisfied that the delegates had unanimously accepted all the amendments tabled by the supreme council, with some minor changes.

He said as Umno was a democratic party, it would listen to the voices of its members.

Najib cited as an example that at the initial stage, the supreme council had no intention to extend the percentage of nominations to the divisional level to include the post of division head.

However after the matter was raised by the delegates, the supreme council found that the same principle could be applied at the divisional level.

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