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Najib-Umno

NO SPLIT IF CONTEST IS CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO ETHICS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is leaving it to the delegates at the general assembly next year to decide on the contest for Umno deputy president.

"At this stage, the prime minister is leaving it to the general assembly, unless there are other decisions," he said when asked whether Dr Mahathir had consented to the contest for Umno deputy president.

Najib said this to reporters after launching "The Encyclopaedia of Malaysia" volume one to five, here today.

The post of Umno deputy president is now widely talked about among party members following the expulsion of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the post on Sept 3 following allegations of sexual misconduct.

In Melaka two days ago, Najib had indicated his intention to contest the second highest post in the party if there is a vacancy.

Asked on the possibility of the emergence of group A and group B following the contest, he said: "I believe the prime minister does not want such unhealthy situation which can affect Umno's stability and solidarity."

Najib said there would not be any split in the party if the contest for posts next year were to be carried out based on values and ethics of the party.

"We will be going through an election process with full responsibility in Umno and if the election is carried out ethically, there will not be any split," he added.

He said if the election was well conducted and the result accepted, the losers must face defeat and the winners must strive to ensure that Umno was united and strong.

Asked on the 25 Umno members who had replied the show-cause letters for being involved in activities detrimental to the government and party, Najib said six of them would be interviewed tomorrow.

On Friday, the Umno Supreme Council decided that all the 25 members issued with the show-cause letters be interviewed before any decision could be made on their position.

The interview will be conducted by the Umno management and disciplinary committee chaired jointly by Najib and vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

--BERNAMA

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