


Malacca and Johor back no-contest decision

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MALACCA, Mon: All five Umno divisions in the state have come out in support of the supreme council's decision that the two top posts will not be contested.

State Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Waa Mohd Ali Rustam said their support is based on the interest and unity of the party as a contest for the two top posts may result in damage to Umno.

"A contest may lead to problems in the party which will require time to correct. We should focus on nation-building," he said after being sworn in as Malacca Historic City Council president in Ayer Keroh today.

He said the five divisions will nominate Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, for the posts of president and deputy president respectively.

In **JOHOR BARU**, several Umno leaders said the supreme council's decision should be respected for the sake of party unity.

Gelang Patah Umno division chief Baharon Ghani said Mahathir's leadership is still much needed.

Besides, he added, Mahathir and Abdullah are capable of working together as a team in the interests of party unity.

State assembly speaker Datuk Zainal Abidin Mohamed Zin said the decision should reduce factionalism in the party, particularly during party elections.