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Tajol **not** vying for **Umno** Veeep post

GRIK, Sun: Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohd Tajol Rosli Ghazali declared today he will not contest for the Umno vice-presidency in the May party elections.

"I've no intention of contesting for the post now and have no plans yet to go for the post in future.

"What's important to me is for the president and deputy president's posts to be unopposed," he told reporters at his Hari Raya open house here.

The Umno Supreme Council, at its meeting on Jan 3, decided that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be renominated for the presidency and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, be nominated for the deputy presidency.

Tajol said he would discuss with Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz if the International Trade and Industry Minister decides to join the fray for the vice-president's posts.

"Many people have offered themselves for the posts. If Rafidah decides to do so, then we'll discuss with her," he said.

He said Rafidah's nomination for the post was up to the divisions and should not necessarily come from Perak.

Tajol, who is also Perak Umno liaison chief, said yesterday that the state Umno will support Rafidah if she offered herself for the post.

Perak Wanita Umno chief Ainon Khairiyah

Mohamed Abas said the state Umno is prepared to lobby for Rafidah.

In KUALA TERENGGANU today, former Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said he will not accept any nomination for the supreme council.

"The time has finally come for me to make way for young people to take over my place in the council," he said at his Hari Raya open house.

"However, I will continue to work for the party as long as my services are needed . . . party position is no longer important for me.

"What is important is dedication and commitment to the party struggle."

Apart from Wan Mokhtar, the other incumbent from Terengganu is Umno information chief Datuk Dr Yusof Nor.