

05/05/2000

Abdul Aziz and Zein cleared of money politics charges

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Umno supreme council has cleared Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fadzir and Zein Isma Ismail, who are vying for the post of Umno Youth deputy chief in party election next week, of any charges of being involved in money politics.

Management and Disciplinary Committee chairman Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today the Technical Committee, which was given the task to investigate allegations against the two, could not find any concrete evidence to implicate them.

"Therefore, both are cleared of any allegation (of money politics)," said Abdullah, who is also Umno vice-president after the supreme council meeting.

Abdul Aziz and Zein are the only two candidates running for the Youth deputy chief post. Official complaints against both of them were received by the Management and Disciplinary Committee last month.

On the Bandar Tun Razak division case, Abdullah said the Technical Committee had completed processing the division's appeal against the supreme council's decision to suspend it.

He was elaborating on Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the supreme council had reaffirmed its earlier decision to suspend the division.

The suspension covers its Youth and Wanita wings as well.

"Even though the division's Youth and Wanita meetings were conducted ethically, the suspension affects all its delegates," Dr Mahathir said.

The Bandar Tun Razak division, headed by Tamunif Mokhtar, could not smoothly hold its divisional meetings due to some misunderstanding among some members. The first divisional meeting was held on March 26, but was postponed to April 14. Both meetings were disrupted.

Dr Mahathir said the party also welcomed ex-Semangat 46 Selangor chief Datuk Harun Idris to rejoin Umno.

Harun, a former Selangor Menteri Besar and Umno vice-president, has yet to make a formal application.

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