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Abdullah: Those who have served well will be appointed

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Those who have served Umno well and fulfilled their responsibilities can expect to be appointed to the supreme council.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said these were the main criteria to be used in the appointments of 10 candidates to the council.

"We want people who can contribute to the party, give good suggestions during discussions and carry out the duties entrusted to them," he said.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after opening the 14th Asia-Pacific Roundtable here today.

On May 29, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said not all senior members who lost in the Umno election on May 12 could expect to be appointed to the council as there were limited seats.

Dr Mahathir said he had to be selective in appointing members because there were so many who could be considered.

As party president, Dr Mahathir can appoint 10 members. Twenty-five others are elected.

On whether the Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers who lost in the election were automatic choices to the council, Abdullah said: "We have not finalised the list yet."

He said although the president could appoint anyone to the council, this was a delicate matter.

"I don't want to talk about this now. If I make a statement now, it will be difficult for us to make the final decision later," he said.

Meanwhile, former Wanita Umno chief Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said it was up to Dr Mahathir to decide whether she would be among the 10 appointed to the council.

"Don't ask me ... it is the prerogative of the president.

"Just wait for the supreme council to announce it," she said after opening the Pure Life Society's Open Day in conjunction with its golden anniversary today.

The latest edition of the party's newsletter, Merdeka, said three Wanita representatives were expected to be appointed to the council.

Besides Siti Zaharah, the other two are deputy chief Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and exco member Dr Norraesah Mohamad.

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