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Call to formulate campaign guidelines

THE Umno supreme council should formulate specific guidelines to give members contesting the party elections an opportunity to campaign.

While supporting the move to permanently end money politics, Johor delegate Adam Abdul Hamid said this was necessary to give candidates a chance to meet party members and vice versa.

He said by not allowing campaigning at all, it appeared autocratic and in the long run would not augur well for the party's future growth.

"The supreme council should take serious consideration of this and ensure there is no money politics, formulate a set of guidelines which members have to strictly adhere to," he said when proposing the motion of thanks on the presidential speech.

To ensure there was no money politics, he suggested that the Umno headquarters register all delegates wishing to contest at least 45 days before the start of divisional meetings.

He said the list should then be distributed to all divisions following which a day is set where representatives from the divisions are present and the candidates given a chance to introduce themselves.

"During this meeting, the members should be given a chance to question the delegates and decide whether he (the delegate) be allowed to contest," he said.

He also said all new supreme council members should make it a point to go to the ground and visit Umno members nationwide.

He suggested that in future the supreme council meet twice a month, once in Kuala Lumpur and the second on rotation among the various States.

This, he said would give Umno members a better opportunity to get to know supreme council members and strengthen ties within the party.

Adam proposed the post of Housing and Local Government Minister be given to an Umno member to ensure the housing needs of the Malay community was met.

"The Government should also seriously consider reviewing the country's housing policy to provide more affordable homes," he said.

He proposed that for all new housing projects, 50 per cent of the houses be priced below RM25,000, 20 per cent (below RM50,000), 20 per cent (below RM80,000) and 10 per cent be allocated for shophouses below RM150,000.

"I feel Mara should also be given a higher allocation to allow it to purchase more shoplots to be rented out to Malay businessmen."

Adam also pledged undivided support to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and said that Johor Umno members wholeheartedly accepted the supreme council's decision to sack former deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said there was no longer a need to bring up the "Anwar" issue as the members clearly understood and respect the decision.

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