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Decision shows Johor Umno is united

KOTA TINGGI, Tues. - Johor Umno is mature and united as evident by its recent decision to allow a free-for-all for State party leaders vying for top posts in the Umno elections in May.

State party deputy chairman Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, who is one of three Johor leaders vying for the post of Umno vice-president, said the decision augured well for the future of the party in Johor.

"The decision by Johor Umno to endorse all State candidates who wish to vie for national party positions shows that there is unity within the party.

"It also shows the strong and able leadership of Johor Umno by Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, who proposed the free-for-all idea and got the State Umno liaison committee to endorse it," he said.

Syed Hamid, who is also Foreign Minister, was speaking to reporters after chairing the Kota Tinggi Umno divisional meeting.

The other two candidates who had declared their intention to contest for the post of Umno vice-president are Ghani and Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is Umno Pagoh division head.

Syed Hamid said that announcing one's candidacy was not the end of the game, adding that what was more crucial was getting party divisions to endorse the candidates by way of nominations.

"We cannot question those who are contesting. It is their individual right, as long as their actions do not jeopardise the stability of the party."

Syed Hamid said his Kota Tinggi division also supported Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his deputy.

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