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DPM: Umno members understand reason for supreme council advice

KEPALA BATAS, Thurs. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today he believed most Umno members understand very well the reason why the party's supreme council had advocated no contest for the two top posts.

Abdullah, who has been carrying out the duties of party deputy president, said party members would all have heard various views and the rationale for the council's decision.

"They should thus understand it. So, let the members make the decision, conclusion and nominations themselves.

"I am sure Umno members still love their party and would want it to remain strong," he said when met after witnessing the traditional sacrifice of a bull in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidil Adha at the Al-Jamiul Badawi mosque in his hometown this morning.

He was commenting on allegations by certain quarters that the supreme council had advised against any contest for the party president's and deputy president's posts, to strengthen the position of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Abdullah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister.

"I am prepared to accept whatever decision made by the party members through their delegates, because I know they are Umno members who know what is best for the party and its struggle."

Meanwhile, he said he was unaware of any reports against any quarter for contravening the ethics set out for party elections.

"It looks like Umno members and candidates are carefully conforming with the ethics which we have agreed will be observed by all," said Abdullah, adding he was happy with the situation.

He said election campaigns were going on smoothly in line with democratic practices and awareness of the party's objectives.

Abdullah also reminded Muslims that there was more to the concept of "sacrifice" than the mere slaughtering of animals.

He said the concept of sacrifice (korban) extended also to striving for progress, peace and development.

Earlier, he performed Aidil Adha prayers with more than 1,000 other Muslims at the Al-Jamiul mosque.

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