

14 JAN 2000

Ibrahim-Umno

IBRAHIM SAAD TO DEFEND SUPREME COUNCIL SEAT

PULAU PINANG, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- Umno supreme council member Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad said he would defend his seat in the council at the party election in May.

He said he had decided to defend the seat although he might have to face other contestants from Pulau Pinang vying for a seat in the council, the party's highest policy-making body.

"Anyone from the state can contest as we have 25 elected seats in the council. I'm confident Umno members will make a wise choice," he told reporters after paying his last respects to Datuk Koh Pen Ting, the father of Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Pen Ting died on Tuesday after a long illness.

Ibrahim, who is also Bukit Mertajam Umno division chief, said he would continue to serve Umno regardless of whether he had a post or otherwise in the party.

On the Supreme Council's no-contest advice for the party's president and deputy president's posts, Ibrahim said being the council member, he abided by the stand but party members might have their own views on the matter.

He said several party members had expressed their displeasure to him over the proposal.

"Ultimately, it's the members who will decide on everything in Umno including the party's leadership.

"In a democratic system, people can offer to contest for posts and lobby for positions but the party members make the final decision," said Ibrahim, who lost to Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Ismail in the Permatang Pauh parliamentary constituency in the Nov 29 general election.

The Umno supreme council, in its meeting on Jan 3, made a stand that there be no contest for the president and deputy president's posts.

The council proposed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be renominated for the presidency and only his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi be nominated for deputy presidency.

-- BERNAMA

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