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`Don't use leaders' names to win support'

KOTA KINABALU, Thurs. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today repeated an advice given before previous party election that aspirants to the various posts in the party's May election should not use the names of certain leaders to garner support.

"Those who offer themselves for nominations should refrain from making claims that they have the endorsement of certain leaders," said the Deputy Prime Minister, who is performing the duties of Umno deputy president.

Speaking at a Press conference here, Abdullah said he hoped none of those who had offered themselves for nominations had made use of his name.

He said members were mature enough to assess the capability and quality of leaders they preferred.

"I believe Umno members will judge the aspiring candidates based on their track record and capability to serve the party rather than whether or not they were endorsed by this or that leader."

Asked if there was a need for States to limit the number of candidates contesting in the party election, he said it was up to the divisions and State liaison committee to decide.

He said Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had advised leaders and members to emphasise on discipline.

(It is common for candidates to tell delegates that their candidacy receives the endorsement of certain key leaders).

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