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Make PM's advice a directive, says Rais

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - The Umno president's advice to members vying for party posts to conduct their campaign in an orderly and ethical manner should be turned into a directive.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Rais Yatim said if this was done, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reminder could then be enforced more effectively by the party.

"Such a directive will have a positive effect on the election process. It should be practised not only by Umno but by other political parties as well," he said when asked for comments on the Prime Minister's advice to candidates.

Dr Mahathir yesterday told members to observe ethics, maintain decency and avoid using money while canvassing.

Rais, who is among a few who have announced their intention to contest the vice-president's post, said he would follow the advice.

"Campaigns to woo support should not be mixed with money," he told reporters after a courtesy call by Bar Council president R.R Chelvarajah at his office here.

In Ipoh, newly-appointed State Liaison committee chairman Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said Perak Umno would propose that only ministers and deputy ministers contest for supreme council seats.

Speaking to reporters after presenting Hari Raya hampers to patients at Ipoh Hospital, Tajol Rosli, who is Menteri Besar, said the proposal was aimed at preventing unnecessary contests for party posts.

In Kota Kinabalu, Sabah Umno chief Datuk Seri Osu Sukam expressed confidence that all the 20 Umno divisions in the State would support the no-contest proposal for the posts of president and deputy president.

He said the State liaison committee would meet soon to discuss the proposal made by the party's supreme council at its meeting on Monday.

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