

10 JAN 2000

Najib-Umno

NAJIB VOWS TO MAKE PEKAN UMNO STRONGHOLD AGAIN

PEKAN, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak today vowed to make Pekan an Umno stronghold again after the sharp fall in the party's performance there in the recent general election.

Najib said he was not the least disappointed that he could retain the Pekan seat with a majority of only 241 votes compared to 10,793 in the 1995 polls.

He said he would accept with an open mind all views on how to go about strengthening Umno in Pekan.

"The election was a lesson for me to redouble my efforts," he said at an Aidilfitri function organised by the Kampung Langgar People's Association here.

Najib, who is the defence minister, urged the people to appreciate the contributions made by the government and Umno.

In MERSING later, Najib said the Umno Supreme Council did not have the authority to direct Umno divisions to nominate any particular persons for top party posts.

He said the council's stand that there be no contests for the party presidency and deputy presidency should only be regarded as an "advice and guidance" for the divisions as mentioned by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The council had on Jan 3 took the stand that Dr Mahathir be retained unopposed as the president and that only Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi be nominated for the deputy presidency.

Najib said it was up to the Umno divisions to decide whether to nominate their own candidate for the deputy president's post.

The defence minister was speaking to reporters after celebrating Aidilfitri with the 10 Tactical personnel of the Royal Malay Regiment in Tanjung Siang.

-- BERNAMA

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