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New guidelines for Umno polls campaigning, members' conduct

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Umno management and disciplinary committee is preparing a new set of guidelines to determine the conduct of members and campaigning for party polls in May.

Vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is also a committee member, said the guidelines would hopefully make the polls the cleanest in Umno history.

"It is our wish that with detailed and specific guidelines, the election will be free from the influence of money politics or abuse of power by incumbents.

"Our aim is to ensure that the poll is the cleanest and true to the spirit of Umno," he told reporters after attending a tahlil session for his father, late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, at the Tun Razak Memorial today.

Najib said the guidelines would be presented to the supreme council for endorsement.

Asked whether the proposed guidelines would include the advice of the council that the post of president and deputy president be uncontested, Najib said since it was only a suggestion, it would not be included.

"Whether or not the supreme council's advice is followed will depend on the divisions," he added.

On punishment for members who breached the guidelines, Najib said the disciplinary committee and the council would decide on this.

"A clean election is important and will convince voters and the Malays to support Umno," he added.

Meanwhile, Najib said Umno had started its programmes to revitalise the party following the Nov 29 general election.

He said all the 2.7 million members would undergo courses based on the briefing by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to council members and 65 division representatives on Jan 11.

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