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Abdullah-Umno

NO COMPLAINTS ON UMNO POLLS ETHICS BREACH - ABDULLAH

SUBANG, March 9 (Bernama) -- The Umno Management and Disciplinary Committee has not received any complaints so far on candidates breaching the code of ethics in their campaigns for the May 11 party elections.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the divisional meetings which made nominations for aspirants to contest party posts were also going on smoothly.

"At the moment, nobody has made any protest," he told reporters when asked if there were reports of contestants breaking the party's code of ethics for the election approved by the supreme council recently.

The code, among others, prohibits candidates from using money in their campaigns and giving donations to secure nominations to vie for party positions.

Candidates found to have contravened the code would be barred from contesting.

Earlier, Abdullah sent off Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Jakarta at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport here. The Prime Minister left for Indonesia this morning for an official overnight visit at the invitation of President Abdurrahman Wahid.

Abdullah said only cases of Umno members' misconduct in the last general election and the running of branch meetings had been brought before the committee headed by him.

Asked to comment on Umno Youth's plan to arrange for the temporary resettlement in Malaysia for 10 chechen families affected by the Chechnya conflict, Abdullah, who is also Home Minister, said no official application had been received.

"Let the youth movement inform the matter to me first before making a decision," he said.

He said the government need to know the Chechens' background and why they were seeking a temporary stay in Malaysia.

Abdullah pointed out that Malaysia had previously granted temporary stay to Bosnian refugees at the height of the Balkan conflict.

He said Malaysia would not protect trouble makers or rebels from other countries.

"But we may provide assistance on humanitarian grounds," he said.

Umno Youth is reported to be considering a request from the Chechnya representative office in Malaysia to resettle 10 Chechen refugee families in this country.

-- BERNAMA

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