

16/03/2000

Pahang Umno asked to postpone nominations

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UMNO divisions in Pahang that have scheduled their nomination meetings before the end of the month have been advised to postpone them until after the April 1 Sanggang by-election.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said this will allow Umno members in the state to focus on campaigning for the by-election.

"We feel it is better if they postpone their meetings until after the by-election," he said after chairing the Umno management and disciplinary committee meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Abdullah, who is Umno vice president and carrying out the duties of Umno deputy president, said divisions that have no choice but to proceed with their scheduled meetings can still do so.

"The Umno division meetings can be held during the day, since most of the campaigning and ceramahs will be held at night," he added.

The Sanggang by-election is being held following the death of state assemblyman Datuk Abdulah Kia on February 26.

Abdullah said yesterday's committee meeting discussed preparations for the by-election and identified the states which will be sending Barisan Nasional (BN) supporters to help in the campaign.

"We will streamline all the work, and optimise our resources and people to ensure we get the most effective results," he added.

Abdullah said BN is prepared to explain to the voters in Sanggang and handle any issue brought up by the opposition.

"We will emphasise our efforts towards development, what our future plans are, and our commitment to fulfil the promises we made in the BN manifesto," he said.

Asked whether the committee had received any reports of Umno candidates breaching the party's code of ethics for the Umno elections in May, Abdullah said so far there were no complaints.

"This shows that Umno members are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, and have adhered to the code of ethics," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister was also asked to comment about a reported suggestion by National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia president Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli, that businessmen accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on overseas trips who are not serious about doing business be blacklisted from future trips.

"We certainly would like to take note of such businessmen. We welcome Tajudin's comments because he is the chamber president. His attitude in this matter is very good," Abdullah said.

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