

13/01/2000

Shahidan to defend supreme council position

KANGAR, Wed. - Perlis Umno liasion chief Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim confirmed today that he would defend his position as supreme council member in the party's next general assembly in May.

However, he said he had decided not to contest for the vice-president posts because there "are more qualified Umno leaders" who had voiced their willingness to contest for the position. "Yes, it's confirmed. I will only defend my seat in the Umno supreme council."

Shahidan, who said this at his office today was initially quoted by the Press on Jan 2 as saying that he would be prepared to contest for the post if nominated by party members.

He said several Umno leaders whom he felt could serve the party better as vice-presidents had since voiced their readiness to contest for the posts.

"I am a party worker more than anything else and I think I can serve Umno better in my current position," he said.

The Umno vice-president posts are currently held by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

Shahidan also said the three Perlis Umno divisions had actually made plans during a meeting on Dec 31 last year to nominate incumbent party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Abdullah for the party president and deputy president posts respectively.

"We made the decision even before the supreme council's no-contest advice earlier this month."

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