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Supreme council aspirants told not to go overboard in campaigning

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Candidates for Umno supreme council seats are allowed to campaign but they should not go overboard, its vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said they should not indulge in money politics or other unhealthy tactics to secure votes.

"Healthy campaigning in the normal way is allowed," he said at the Mines Exhibition Centre in Seri Kembangan, near here.

The Deputy Prime Minister had earlier opened the Water 2000, Tenaga 2000 and International Security, Safety and Fire Protection 2000 expo and forum.

Abdullah was asked to comment on whether supreme council candidates could campaign following a statement by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that they could do so.

"Dr Mahathir's statement was the result of his meeting with the candidates where an opinion had been expressed that some form of campaigning be allowed. The reason stated was that some candidates were new faces and had to introduce themselves to delegates.

"Besides, those not holding any government posts are not getting much media coverage."

He said Dr Mahathir was not forcing anyone to cease campaigning but wanted it to be done in a healthy manner.

Abdullah, who is assuming the duties of deputy president, said candidates holding government posts were allowed to issue statements about their ministries but not to advertise themselves for the party elections, scheduled on May 10 and 11.

On whether aspirants for the supreme council seats were allowed to meet the delegates, Abdullah said they could.

On whether guidelines on campaigning would be issued by the party headquarters, Abdullah said the code of ethics endorsed by the supreme council on the conduct of candidates was applicable.

However, for candidates vying for the vice-presidency, Abdullah said they had to adhere to the pledge they made to Dr Mahathir, which included a promise to stop campaigning.

"Moreover, the candidates are already known to delegates," he added.

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