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Umno disciplinary board recommends 69 be sacked

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Umno management and disciplinary committee today recommended that 69 members be sacked for contesting as Opposition candidates and participating in anti-party activities during the general election.

This included a group of 64 members from the Sepang division.

Announcing this after chairing a two-hour committee meeting at Menara Dato Onn, at PWTC vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said two were sacked for life for contesting as Parti Keadilan Nasional and Pas candidates.

They are Usaili Alias and Mohd Azmi Lop Yusoff, who stood in the Bota, Perak, and Bandar, Terengganu, State seats respectively.

Mohd Azmi won after defeating Barisan Nasional candidate Wong Foon Meng and an independent Ng Chai Hing by a majority of 511 votes.

The others sacked are Azmi Salleh, Mohamad Embong and Datuk Syed Omar @ Abu Bakar Abdullah, all from Terengganu.

Abdullah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said the committee would also recommend to the supreme council, the party's highest decision-making body, that 30 more members be asked to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them.

"Today's decisions were made after studying the various complaints lodged by divisions on party turncoats."

Abdullah, who is assuming the duties of deputy president, said the committee had also decided that the first information session for members would kick off on Tuesday with a presidential address by Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

All supreme council members and 65 members nominated by the respective State liaison committees will attend the one-day event at Putra World Trade Centre where the Prime Minister is expected to speak at length on the party's struggles and challenges facing it.

Abdullah said the outcome of the seminar would form the basis of a curriculum, to be used at similar sessions involving all party members.

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