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Unanimous decision by Penang to follow advice

PENANG, Tues. - The State Umno will abide by the supreme council's advice that there be no contest for the top two posts in the May elections.

Its deputy chairman Datuk Seri Mohd Shariff Omar said a unanimous decision was reached by the divisional leaders along with Wanita and Youth heads at a meeting today.

He said they would support the nomination of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as president and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as deputy president.

Abdullah, who is the State Umno chairman, presided over the meeting but left when the decision was taken.

Abdullah, who is the Deputy Prime Minister, later said the meeting had discussed various issues.

These included members who had acted against Umno or the Barisan Nasional in the Nov 29 general election.

"There are many cases like these pending at the Umno headquarters in Kuala Lumpur and may take a while to resolve."

Abdullah, however, said those who had not faced disciplinary action had the right to attend branch meetings.

He also said action might be taken against some Permatang Pauh members who had let down the party in the election.

Asked about the demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur today which saw 11 people arrested, Abdullah said: "The police were merely carrying out their duties and this has nothing to do with any policies... they are cases of enforcement of the law."

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