

'Umno suspensions carefully deliberated'

SUN 13 MAY 2001

Board's decision made in line with party constitution, says Abdullah

By Regina William
wregina@thesundaily.com

KEPALA BATAS, Sat: The Umno disciplinary board's decision to suspend party members found guilty of breach of discipline was made after careful deliberation.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said no one could dispute the board's decision as it had been made in accordance with the party's constitution.

He said it would be best if the members concerned

accepted the decision although they have the right to appeal.

"I am sure the board members went into every detail of each case before making the decisions. The accused were also given the chance to defend themselves before the board," Abdullah said.

He said members who indulged in wrongdoing would have to pay for their actions if found guilty as the party took a serious view of involvement in money politics.

"If there is anything that Umno will not tolerate, it is the use of money politics and

there is no compromise on this."

Abdullah said the party's supreme council would consider the appeals made at its next meeting.

Meanwhile, in **PEKAN**, Bernama reported that Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said the stern action was in line with the party's wish to project a positive image to society.

He said it also served to deter others from indulging in money politics.

"This is the last warning, there will be no more after this. We will act at once,"

Najib said.

Najib, who is the defence minister and member of parliament for Pekan, was speaking to reporters after opening the **Pahang** Education and Career expo here.

On Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that divisional leaders might no longer be awarded contracts, Najib said it indicated Mahathir's desire to keep money politics in check.

He agreed that some members could have contested for the division chief's post with the aim of securing contracts.