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# 'Money politics needs long-term treatment'

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said members must be constantly reminded of the evils of money politics.

"It is an issue that we have to keep reminding the people about.

"Just like taking medicine - it takes a long time to cure, so you must be prepared to take the medicine as prescribed," he told a press conference after delivering his opening speech at the Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies.

He said the party takes this issue seriously.

"We admit that this is not an easy problem to solve. That is why we established a disciplinary board and God-willing,

money politics will be gradually eradicated."

Asked on the abuse of party positions to get business deals, he said party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had mentioned this many times.

"What is important is that Umno's struggles are given priority.

"Furthermore, the supreme council already decided that contracts are not to be given out to division heads.

Asked whether Umno members are happy with the party president's leadership, Abdullah said: "He is still the perfect leader for Umno, he is our leader and there is no dispute in this matter . . . And I'm happy to be his deputy."