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Abdullah-ACA

ACA CAN CHECK MONEY POLITICS DURING UMNO POLLS WITHOUT INSTRUCTION

SERDANG, Feb 23 (Bernama) -- The Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) can on its own act against aspirants resorting to money politics in Umno branch and divisional elections starting next month without being asked by the party to do so, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The ACA can take action, for instance, when it suspects bribery is involved or when payment is made from questionable financial resources," said Abdullah who is also Home Minister.

At a press conference after visiting Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) here today Abdullah was asked whether the ACA would be directed to check against money politics in the upcoming Umno polls.

Abdullah, who is Umno deputy president, said the code of Umno election ethics would suffice in dealing with possible graft menace in the run up to the Umno elections.

While at the university, Abdullah held a dialogue with UPM staff before opening the UPM stadium.

At its meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the Umno Supreme Council endorsed a proposal by the party's management and disciplinary committee chaired by Abdullah that Umno's existing but slightly amended code of election ethics be used for the coming branch and divisional polls.

The code were first distributed to the party's 165 divisions before the Umno elections in May last year.

Abdullah expressed hoped that party members would observe the code of ethics as Umno had from the outset rejected money politics for the sake of Umno's future.

On the meeting between Prime Minister and party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Umno division chiefs in Putrajaya yesterday, Abdullah said Dr Mahathir explained to them current issues relating to the proposed Umno-PAS talks on Malay unity.

Abdullah was also asked about PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor's statement that the opposition party would not budge from its demand that Umno should first meet its three additional conditions before the proposed talks could proceed.

Abdullah said he would leave it to Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob to resolve the arising matters with his PAS counterpart.

-- BERNAMA

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