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Abdullah-Complaints

DON'T USE DISCIPLINARY BOARD FOR PERSONAL GAINS, WARNS PAK LAH

KUALA LUMPUR, April 25 (Bernama) -- Deputy Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today advised party members who were involved in the Umno elections at the division level against using the party disciplinary board arbitrarily to lodge complaints for personal gains.

He said the party headquarters had received about 300 complaints concerning the ongoing Umno divisional elections and the disciplinary board needed to spend time to scrutinise the complaints.

"Just because the disciplinary board has been set up to look into all complaints, I hope Umno members will not take the easy way out by simply making allegations hoping that they would gain from them," he said at a media conference after chairing the Umno management committee meeting at the party headquarters, here.

Abdullah also reminded the members of the warning by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that action would also be taken against those who could not prove the allegations in the complaints, especially in the more serious cases.

"We want those lodging the complaints to have a strong case for consideration...we want the complaints to be made with full responsibility," he said.

He said most of the complaints received by him involved those who had lost in the party election and those who felt that they had been wronged.

He said the members should accept the decision of the majority, adding that in a contest a candidate was bound to have his own supporters as well as those who would support his rivals.

"What is important is for the members to be united, once the election is over and the division had made a decision based on the voice of the majority, accept it (the decision), this is the best way," he said.

Abdullah, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, said about 30 Umno divisions had yet to hold their delegates meeting.

He also clarified that the divisional delegates meeting of the Youth and Wanita movements were valid even though there were delegates from branches which were not valid because the presence of the delegates who were not eligible to attend the meeting could be set aside.

However, the general meeting of the branches' Youth and Wanita movements would be invalid if the status of the branches concerned was not valid as the Youth and Wanita movements were from the invalid branches.

"If the branch is not valid, then its Youth and Wanita movements are also invalid, but if the divisional election is valid, then the invalidity of certain delegates present at the divisional meeting would not cause the meeting to be cancelled," he said.

Abdullah also said that Umno would hold a simple but meaningful celebration in conjunction with Umno Day on May 11.

Among others, the ceremony would include a meeting of Umno veterans with the Umno president.

-- BERNAMA

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