

Abdul Aziz tipped as Umno info chief

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KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin is expected to be appointed as Umno information chief, replacing Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

He is also expected to be appointed as the deputy chairman of the party's information committee headed by deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Besides Abdullah and Abdul Aziz, the Umno information committee comprises Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Zainuddin Majidin, former editors of the print media and several academicians.

His appointment is expected to be announced at the party's supreme council meeting scheduled for next week.

Abdul Aziz was elected as a party

supreme council member in 2000.

He was Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's political secretary before being appointed as senator and deputy minister in 1999.

Abdul Aziz is described in Umno circles as hard-working, meticulous, soft-spoken and someone who prefers a low profile.

Mustapa held the information chief's post for two years. He tendered his resignation two weeks ago to concentrate on Kelantan Umno — where he is the state liaison chief.

Mustapa's resignation was announced by Mahathir when the latter visited Kelantan two weeks ago.

Mahathir's visit to the state also extinguished rumours of infighting in the state Umno where several division heads were said to want Mustapa out — claiming he was too soft.