

Dollah: Leaders may only hold one post

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno is looking into preventing division chiefs from holding more than one post in the party.

Party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said this was because the party wanted the present office bearers to concentrate fully on serving the people who had picked them for that post.

He said this proposal from the supreme council meeting yesterday was intended for future party elections.

He said although current party regulations allowed Umno members to hold two posts at the same time, the council was of the view that this was not appropriate in the future.

"We feel that it is better that someone who is already a head of a division to remain in that post rather than go for another post. If one is already a Puteri chief for example, why also become a Wanita head in a division?"

"Or if one is already head of the Youth wing, then why go for the division chief post also?" he said after the council meeting.

He said vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who chairs the party constitutional review committee had been given the task to look into the matter and come up with specific proposals.

Abdullah chaired the meeting as Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was away in Kedah to attend the funeral and prayers of his elder brother who had passed away in the morning.

Abdullah said the review would be for future party elections and would not affect the Nov 1 Puteri election.

Abdullah said the council decided to look into this matter because it did not want the party to face such problems in the future.

The council meeting, which was specially called to make a stand on the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English, did not make a decision on it yesterday because Dr Mahathir was not present.

"Dr Mahathir promised to be present at the meeting which will make a decision on it. So I will brief him on the views that were given by the supreme council. The council will meet again to discuss the issue," Abdullah said.

At an earlier function, Abdullah said Malaysia regarded extremists as a threat to "the Malaysian way of life" and was mindful of the need to clamp down on all forms of extremism whether religious, racial and ideological.

Reiterating Malaysia's strong stand against terrorist activities, the Deputy Prime Minister said that the nation's stand had been repeated clearly and frequently.

Noting that Malaysia had been excluded from the top 25 of the foreign direct investment index, he said: "One of the reasons given was the fear of terrorism.

"But this is merely a problem of perception. Maybe it is because of the good work of the police," Abdullah said in his luncheon address at the HSBC Malaysia Investment Conference here.