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Umno constitution to be reviewed

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Umno supreme council wants a review of the party constitution over the practice of members who hold posts in one wing but then vie for posts in other party wings.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today there was no necessity for a member who had fought so hard to secure, for example, the division chief's post only to contest the youth chief's post while still holding on to the former.

He was responding to questions about post-holding Wanita members who were pursuing posts in Puteri Umno.

Speaking after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting here today, Abdullah said: "For this Puteri Umno election, we will allow it.

"However, we believe the constitution needs to be looked into and this aspect of vying for posts in different wings should be reviewed. The constitution allows for it."

The meeting was originally meant to be chaired by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, the death of Dr Mahathir's elder brother meant he had to fly to Kedah for the funeral, leaving Abdullah to stand in for him.

Abdullah said the supreme council had requested vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who heads the Umno committee on constitution amendments, to look into the matter.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the meeting also discussed preparations for the Oct 12 Gaya by-election, and Umno had agreed that Sabah Barisan Nasional chief (and State Chief Minister) Datuk Chong Kah Kiat would be the director for the by-election.

Abdullah said Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib had been appointed Umno co-ordinator. "He (Muhammad) and Sabah Umno chief Datuk Musa Aman will sit on the State by-election committee.

Abdullah also said that today's meeting did not discuss the issue on the use of English to teach Mathematics and Science in schools.

Umno information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayub was reported as saying that today's meeting was specially called to discuss the issue.