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Najib-Police

SEVERE PUNISHMENT IF POLICE REPORT IS LODGED - NAJIB

PEKAN, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Umno members who lodge police reports against another member in future will face disciplinary action, including expulsion from the party, its vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

However, no action would be taken on very old reports.

"For future reports...if it happened a long time ago, action will not be taken.

"In Puteri Umno's case, the report was referred to the disciplinary board, so the board can decide on suitable punishment, including expulsion, suspension and others," Najib told reporters after the zakat and aid presentation ceremony to hardcore poor in the Pekan parliamentary constituency, here today.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was reported to have reminded Umno members that those who lodged police reports would face disciplinary action, including expulsion from the party.

The Umno Supreme Council, said Dr Mahathir, had directed the disciplinary board to call the members involved to explain clearly before taking any action.

"Possibly, disciplinary action, including expulsion from Umno, will be taken against those who lodge reports with the police," he said after the council's meeting yesterday.

Najib, who is also Defence Minister, said Umno took the decision to prevent members from acting outside the party channel because any queries or problems faced by members should be directed to the proper channel.

"They can complain to the disciplinary committee that a person has committed an offence and the committee can take action against the person concerned."

Police reports were misused, especially to tarnish a member or a leader whom they disliked, especially during elections, Najib said.

Meanwhile, when asked on the supreme council's decision to defer next year's Umno elections, Najib said it had to be done to concentrate on the general elections.

If there was a party election, it could split the party and it would take a long time to heal the rift, he added.

"This would affect the (party's) chances during the general election, so it is better to pay attention to the general election and only later we focus on Umno's internal election," he added.

-- BERNAMA

HIS VP