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Najib-DPM

DON'T DISCUSS DPM AND UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT ISSUE, SAYS NAJIB

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has asked party members not to discuss the issue of the appointment of the deputy prime minister and Umno deputy president in October.

Najib, who is the Defence Minister, said Umno members should refrain from openly discussing and expressing their views on the matter during the division meetings to be held this month.

He was commenting on the support expressed by the Chenderoh Umno division in Perak yesterday for him to be elevated to deputy president and appointed deputy prime minister in October.

Such statements could affect the concentration and efforts of the party leadership and members to prepare for the next general election, he said in a statement today.

He said: "I wish to clarify that yesterday, when asked by reporters, I declined to make any comment on the statement out of respect for the Umno division's view."

Najib said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had named Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor, and he was confident that all in Umno would give their full support to this succession.

Dr Mahathir has said that he would step down in October.

Chenderoh Umno division chairman Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said his division felt that Najib was the most qualified to become the deputy prime minister as he was one of the longest-serving cabinet ministers and had contributed a lot to national development.

-- BERNAMA

MAS MAS YBY