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Najib-Candidate

UMNO WILL STUDY IMPACT OF NAMING CANDIDATES EARLY - NAJIB

PEKAN, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Umno will study the advantages and disadvantages of announcing early the names of its election candidates, including names of proposed mentris besar for states of Kelantan and Terengganu.

Umno Vice-President Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today said the matter had to be considered carefully as there were advantages and disadvantages to naming candidates early.

He said if the candidate who was named early was rejected or not accepted by party supporters, then it would not achieve the results intended.

If the name of the candidate is announced too late and there is a last-minute change then it would create uncertainty and have a negative effect among party supporters.

"However, what is important is that our chosen candidate has integrity - in other words - win the election because of their leadership, ability and good character.

"Essentially, whether we announce earlier or later the candidate has to be acceptable and receive overall support of the party members," he said after the sacrifice ceremony in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha in Pulau Tambun in Kuala Pahang, here.

A news report today stated that Umno may announce early the names of candidates for mentris besar of Kelantan and Terengganu to help Barisan Nasional (BN) win back the two states at the next general elections.

Its president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, was reported to have agreed to consider the proposal to name the list of candidates for elections in Kelantan much earlier.

However, the Prime Minister was reported to have said that there was a need for more details, and in particular the suggested time frame.

Meanwhile, Najib, who is also the defence minister, said so far there was no report from the Malaysian Royal Navy during surveillance in the waters surrounding Pulau Batu Puteh.

"There have been no negative incidents reported, there is no strain because we enter the waters in a non-aggressive manner," he said.

Najib said the ministry did not determine the distance of surveillance around the island but left the decision to the navy patrol vessel captain.

However, the news report today said that although the Pulau Batu Puteh issue had strained relations between Malaysia and Singapore it had not stopped the navy from patrolling the waters around the island.

Recently, a few navy patrol vessels sailed near Pulau Batu Puteh to conduct patrols despite stringent security patrols carried out by vessels from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in the same area.

-- BERNAMA

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