

27 MAY 2004

Najib-Umno

MT HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE ON NO-CONTEST, SAYS NAJIB

By: Zulkefli Salleh

BANGKOK, May 27 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council (MT)'s decision on no-contest for the posts of president and deputy president is in line with the party's constitution, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"According to Umno Constitution, the MT has the right to make whatever decision it feels fit," he said when asked to comment on statement by an Umno veteran leader, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah that the MT had no right to make such a decision.

Najib, who arrived here this afternoon to attend tomorrow's meeting of the Malaysia-Thailand General Border Committee (GBC), said that the MT had considered all aspects before making a decision to ensure that it would not suppress democratic rights and principles within the party.

"The MT made the decision because there was no indication at all of anyone wishing to challenge the leadership, more so after the party's resounding victory in the recent general election," said Najib, who is carrying out the duties of Umno deputy president.

Najib said that he believed that the Umno branches would respect the MT's decision when nominating candidates during their respective delegates conferences next month for the party elections.

The MT decided at its meeting recently of no-contest for the posts of president and deputy president.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is acting Umno president, the post vacated by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad when retired last October.

The MT made the decision after representatives from Umno branches and divisions expressed the view that that two posts should not be contested at an earlier meeting with Umno secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

-- BERNAMA

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