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Strengthen party for election, Umno members told

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno members must be committed to work hard and enhance co-operation with one another to strengthen the party, said acting president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today.

The Prime Minister urged all party leaders and members at the branch, divisional, State and national levels, including those from the Wanita, Youth and Puteri movements, to play their respective roles in preparing the party to face the general election.

"We must continue to work hard to implement the party's programmes and strengthen our election machinery. We must ensure that our election machinery is active and prepared.

"All leaders and members must also resolve misunderstandings so that we can work as a team," said Abdullah after chairing the first Umno supreme council meeting for the year at the party headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Abdullah said during the meeting he had briefed supreme council members on his direction and programmes since he took over as acting president from Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October.

Asked about the party's preparation for the general election, Abdullah said: "We cannot reveal much as it is part of our strategy. The preparations are going along smoothly."

On the views of political analysts that it was not a problem for Barisan Nasional to secure a two-thirds majority in the election, Abdullah replied: "I am very happy to hear that. We will do our best to get as many people as possible to support the BN."