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Ops deadline for all pro-tem divisions

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - All the 191 newly-formed Umno pro-tem divisions, including its Youth, Wanita and Puteri movements, must start their operations by Dec 17, acting party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

Abdullah said the party had also decided that all appeals from disgruntled party leaders who were dropped from the pro-tem line-up would not be entertained.

On why the committee picked Dec 17 as the deadline, Abdullah said there was no special reason except it would ensure that the pro-tem committees would not be complacent.

He also said the management committee today was sticking to the original list decided by the party's supreme council and there would not be any changes.

"All those appointed to the pro-tem committees must settle down and there should no longer be any appeal or dissatisfaction. We will not entertain any appeal," Abdullah told a Press conference after chairing the Umno management committee meeting at the party headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

On Nov 22, the Umno supreme council unveiled the pro-tem line-up for its 191 divisions nationwide. These committees will be in charge until the party elections next year.

The line-up saw the exclusion of four division heads from Kelantan, including veteran figure Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali, who was replaced by his deputy Datuk Abdul Rahim Abd Rahman, as the Pasir Mas pro-tem head.

Abdullah, who is Prime Minister, said the management committee also decided that all the division Umno Youth, Wanita and Puteri heads will be allowed to appoint an additional five committee members.

At present, the divisions have 15 elected committee members and three appointed by the division head in addition to the appointed posts. Abdullah said that the divisions heads must submit the names of the five proposed as committee members to the respective State liaison committee chairmen.

On Ibrahim's exclusion from the list, Abdullah denied that this was part of a conspiracy.

"It was the supreme council's decision to replace him and we had discussed the matter. There is no conspiracy to drop him," he said.

On Ibrahim's claim that his successor (Abdul Rahim) was older than him, Abdullah said that his successor was "the best choice and can do a good job".

"Furthermore, we believe that he is able to get the people's support. The decision has been made and it is final."

Abdullah also said that the management committee had decided to organise a special thanksgiving event next month in appreciation of the contributions of former Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.