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Don't speculate, Abdullah warns Umno members

Noor Adzman Baharuddin

KEPALA BATAS, Mon. - Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today reminded party leaders at all levels not to speculate on the leadership succession in October and their positions after that.

He said doing so could create unnecessary problems to the party.

"We don't want speculation that can create havoc at the division or branch levels."

The Deputy Prime Minister was asked to comment on Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim's claim that he had received threats that his position as Perlis Menteri Besar would be threatened once Abdullah takes over as Prime Minister from Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October.

Abdullah was here to launch the National Co-operative Day 2003 at Dewan Millennium.

Present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gaddam.

Statements that were speculative in nature could create dissatisfaction since most party leaders had their own supporters.

"As such, we must be very careful with whatever we say." Asked if he was aware of other Umno leaders receiving similar threats, Abdullah replied in the negative.

"This is the first and it is something that Shahidan has to manage by himself since it is his personal problem.

"To me, the question of who is going to be the next wakil rakyat or holding a certain post has yet to be decided and I have not discussed it with anybody."