

22/06/2003

More favour review of election ethics code

MORE Umno leaders have come out in support of the proposal to review the party's election code of ethics, saying any move to further strengthen the party is good.

Vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it would serve as a signal for members not to overstep the boundaries because the revised code of ethics would come down hard on errant members.

"We do not want enemies from within and those who are disloyal to the party deserve to be dealt with severely."

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said Umno would study the possibility of tightening its election code of ethics to prevent disunity and bickering, which could weaken the party.

Dr Mahathir, however, stressed that ethics alone were not enough to ensure discipline if people chose to disobey rules.

Umno information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob said the management committee would look into the proposal once it was received.

Pahang Umno chief Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said the proposal should be lauded as it would consolidate the party.

"We have to subscribe to a guided democracy, and this is one of the ways towards it."

Adnan said the code of ethics would help weed out traitors in Umno.

"What normally kills a tree is not another tree, but its branches and creepers. The presence of traitors in Umno can ruin the party."

Kelantan Umno chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said proper enforcement of ethics was important.

"It will be meaningless if the code of ethics only serves as window dressing. There must be a mechanism to enforce the code."

He said contests in an uncontrolled environment were detrimental to the party.

"Those who do not toe the line should pay the price," said Mustapa.

Terengganu Umno deputy chief Datuk Idris Jusoh said a revision of the code of ethics was for the good of the party.

"I do not think that members will object to it if they are sincere and want to see unity in Umno."