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`Stop lobbying for support to be candidates'

BUKIT MERTAJAM, Fri. - Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today reiterated his warning that party members stop lobbying to be candidates in the next general election.

He said they must work together with other party members to ensure victory for Umno and Barisan Nasional in the election.

"Don't do it," was his advice when asked to comment on the action of some party members, aspiring to be candidates in the election, who have been rallying for support.

Abdullah, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, was here to launch the RM13 million Taman Ara Indah mixed development project in Permatang Pasir, near here.

Present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon and his deputy Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya.

Asked about the action of some Umno division leaders who refused to let party members carry out programmes in their divisions for fear of losing their influence, he said: "There are many problems, but we must face and resolve them."

He said it was important party members realised that whatever they do, it should be for ensuring victory in the next general election.

Asked to comment on the hate campaign against Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain, and a claim that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked for his resignation, he said: "These are rumours and I don't comment on them."

Pressed further, he said: "I have not heard the Prime Minister saying such a thing. Then, it must not be true." Asked if Penang Umno had prepared its list of candidates he said: "Not yet. The new areas are not ready."