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Najib: Umno likely to field new faces

KANGAR, Tues. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak said between 20 and 30 per cent of the party's candidates in the next general election are expected to be new faces.

He said the choice of candidates would be based on their track record.

"We have a fair and systematic mechanism in evaluating the candidates, including obtaining information from the grassroots, the divisions and the State leaderships," said Najib after opening a one-day State Umno Convention at Dewan Warisan here today.

Consultation process would be conducted comprehensively while incorporating the views of as many sources as possible before making a decision, said Najib who is Defence Minister.

He urged party members to leave the mandate on the choice of candidates to the party leadership.

On May 23, Barisan Nasional chairman and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said BN representatives whose attendance at Parliament was not regular, or who worked for "self-interest" would be dropped.

Najib said there were three stages in the party on the selection process: at the division-level, State-level and the national party leadership.