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Umno division says Najib should be No 2

LENGGONG, Sun. - The Chenderoh Umno division declared its support for Datuk Seri Najib Razak to be made deputy to Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi when the latter becomes prime minister in October.

Division head Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said the division would also nominate Najib as Umno deputy president in the party elections next year.

Nazri, who is Entrepreneur Development Minister, said Najib was the most suitable candidate for both posts as he was an experienced minister and among the most senior party leaders.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad himself has said that Najib is the most suitable person to become Deputy Prime Minister if the selection is based on seniority and experience," he said at the division annual general meeting, which was opened by Najib.

Nazri, an Umno supreme council member, said the division made the decision after taking into consideration the aspiration of grassroots members who wanted Najib to hold the post.

"Our support for Najib will also make it easier for Abdullah to appoint his deputy in the Government," he said.

Najib declined to comment.