

GLCs need not be led by Umno members: PM
Malaysiakini.com
Jul 9, 2008

Finance Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said government-linked companies (GLC) such as the Sepang International Circuit need not be helmed by Umno members.

MCPX

"The choice of chairperson for a GLC is based on the person's ability, qualifications, experience, character and deep-knowledge in a sector or industry in which the company operates and is not based on the political views," said Abdullah, who is also prime minister, in his written reply to Wee Choo Keong (PKR-Wangsa Maju).

"This is to ensure that the chairperson appointed is qualified and able to lead the board of directors of the said GLC in the interests of all parties as well as to ensure the effective management of the company," he added.

Though Abdullah's statement did not name any individuals, it was an obvious reference to Sepang International Circuit chairperson Mokhzani Mahathir.

The Sepang International Circuit is organiser of the prestigious Formula 1 race.

Calls for Mokhzani to quit

Following Mokhzani's decision to quit Umno, of which he had served as treasurer in Kedah, Tourism Minister Azalina Othman Said and Youth and Sports Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob had called for Mokhzani to resign.

"Mokhzani should know that SIC is a government entity and he should resign in the interest of the sport," Azalina, who is also an Umno supreme council member, was reported as saying early last month.

"His continued presence is going to hamper the sport because the government's support will have to be reviewed," she added.

Mokhazi quit the party following the decision of his father, former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to do so in order to pressure Abdullah to step down.