

# Umno to decide on Zakaria's fate soon

• **By Deborah Loh**

PUTRAJAYA: Umno is unhappy with the abuse of power by its members who hold public office, as these people are expected to set good examples by upholding the law.

In view of this, the party's supreme council might discuss the case of Port Klang assemblyman Datuk Zakaria Mat Derps at its meeting tomorrow, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

Umno has not yet made a stand on Zakaria's position as Klang Umno division chief since the Sultan of Selangor ticked him off for not submitting building plans on his palatial mansion and told him to

resign from his municipal post, last Saturday.

Najib said the party would discuss the case and issue a statement later.

"Let us discuss the matter in the appropriate forum. But you must understand, Umno is not happy with what is happening," Najib told reporters yesterday after a meeting with Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers at his office, here.

Zakaria got into trouble when it was revealed that "Istana Zakaria", his luxury mansion in Pandamaran, Klang, was being built without planning permission.

It was reported yesterday that two more Klang municipal councillors, Mazlynoor Abdul Latif and Faizal Abdullah, were also issued

stop-work orders on their houses as they had failed to submit the building plans.

Asked if Zakaria and councillors like him were liabilities to the party, Najib said it was a grave matter when such people involved in flouting the law were holders of public positions. "We're very concerned if they are holding public office. If you hold public office, you must show a good example and above all, respect the laws of the country. That goes without saying.

"A wakil rakyat (elected representative) should set a good example because the country's laws are to be respected by all citizens, and even by foreigners who want to be here.

"We should not think that if

we hold a position, we can sit aside the law."

Najib also said he has received a report by the Klang Municipal Council submitted through the Housing and Local Government Ministry on the Zakaria case.

The report will be studied before Umno voices its stand on Zakaria's position.

Asked about the view that politicians should be elected into municipal councils, Najib said while there were different opinions on that, the main issue in the Klang municipal council was abuse of power by an office bearer.

"If they have a position in the district or city council, all the more they should respect the law. If they don't, then they are committing an offence."