

Umno polls only after next general election

KUALALUMPUR: The Umno election, scheduled to be held next year, will be postponed until after the next general election, Umno president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

However, he did not say when the general election would be held, Bernama reported.

The last general election was held on March 1, 2004 and the next election must be held not later than five years after that date.

Abdullah said postponing the Umno election until after the general election had been practised since the last two terms.

"Such a practice had clearly been beneficial for the party where it could give full concentration on national development and implementing projects in the interest of the rakyat," life told a press conference after chairing a meeting of the Umno Supreme Council.

Husna Yusop reports: The Supreme Council decided to sack Bandar Tun Razak division member Zaharin Yasin for his involvement in maintaining a blog which criticised Umno leaders and the government.

Abdullah disclosed this at his press conference.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Radzi Sheikh Ahmad explained later that Zaharin was the former secretary of the division and author of a blog called *Sang Kelembai*.

He said the case had been pending for long time and action was only decided upon yesterday.

The decision to sack Zaharin was unanimous and if he wanted to appeal, he would only be able to do so after three years.

Abdullah said the meeting did not discuss the remarks by Singapore Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew that the Chinese in Malaysia were being marginalised.