

Council endorses decision to sack 23

BY JANE RITKOS

KUALA LUMPUR: The Umno supreme council has endorsed the disciplinary board's decision to sack 23 members, who had contested against Barisan National as independent and opposition candidates in the general election, Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

"Since the board has the full power, the supreme council acknowledges that the 23 members are sacked for contesting as independents and opposition candidates," he said, after the supreme council meeting chaired by acting Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The disciplinary board, chaired by Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, had last Wednesday announced its decision to sack 22 members.

Najib said the supreme council also took note that there were still other cases which the disciplinary board would vet and decide upon soon.

The 23 Umno members, who have been sacked are Datuk Long Jidin (Rompin division), Japiril Suhaimih (Ranau), Kaibi Laiman (Ranau), Datu Razak Datu Salarh (Kudat), Abdul Rahman Sedik (Kudat), Mursalim Tanjung (Kudat), Othman Aliassah (Kudat), Abu Bakar Siman (Kudat), Kahaf Rahman (Kota Marudu), Norbin Aloh (Kota Belud), Salleh Tiasa (Putatan), Datuk Johan O.T. Ghani (Beaufort), Asidin Teilok (Ranau), Sutian @ Phoulus Kandilong (Ranau), Abdullah Sani @ Boong (Kinabatangan), Pengiran Roslan Tengiran Man-



MAKINC A POINT: Abdullah talking to reporters after the supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur last night with Najib by his side.

sah (Kinabatangan), Johani Halim (Silam), Rajib Salim (Silam), Mazli Mansor (Puchong), Datuk Ibrahim Ali (Pasir Mas), Sabri Taib (Selayang), Digong Rashid (Kota Belud) and Ahmad Rahmat (Gombak).

Najib, who is carrying out the duties of the Umno deputy president, said the supreme council had decided to lift the suspension of Baling Umno division pro tem chief Datuk Zainol Mat Isa.

"With that he will be given his full rights as a party member," he added.

Zainol was suspended for three years after the party elections in 2000 for involvement in money politics.

Najib said the council also agreed to

appoint Sepang MP Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed as Sepang Umno division pro tem head following the resignation of Datuk Mohd Sharif Jajang, who has been charged with corruption.

Marsom Paing was appointed as deputy head of the division and Dr Karim Mansor as vice-head.

Najib said that for the Kota Raja Umno division, which was formerly headed by Mohd Zin, the council had appointed Amzah Umar as pro tem head, Dr Ahmad Karim Abdullah Omar as his deputy and Kamar Ariffin Khainin as vice-head.

The Umno general assembly is scheduled for Sept 23 to 25.