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Mat Taib: Endorse PM's transition plan

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'Umno members should not be led by their emotions'

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno members should endorse the leadership transition plan of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, said Umno information chief Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib.

He said the change in party leadership followed the tradition of Umno, which had been taking care of the Malay community.

"If there is a stiff fight in Umno again, the party and Malays will be split once again.

"Umno members should be rational in supporting the transition and not emotional," he told Umno grassroots leaders at a briefing on Tackling Inflation and Petrol Hike at Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

On Thursday, Abdullah announced that he would step down as Prime Minister and Umno president in June 2010 and be replaced by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

»If the IGP and AG can have their statements taken, why can't Anwar?«

TAN SRI MUHAMMAD MUHAMMAD TAIB

On Tuesday's debate on fuel prices between PKR advisor Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Information Minister Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Muhammad said some quarters said that Anwar would take advantage of the debate and manipulate the issues.

"However, some said the debate should be held so that the public can understand the government policy," he said, hoping that Anwar would focus on the petrol price hike issue and not politics.

The debate, organised by news portal Agenda Daily and themed "Form The Government Today, Reduce Fuel Prices Tomorrow," is to take place at Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

On the sodomy allegations brought by former PKR volunteer Mohd Saiful Bukhari Azlan against Anwar, Muhammad said Anwar should not run away from police investigation.

"If the IGP (Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan) and AG (Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail) can have their statements taken, why can't Anwar?"

"We leave it to the police. Umno hopes that the people will not be manipulated by Anwar."