

**Move shows support for Najib's call**  
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Meanwhile, Umno has come up with measures to ensure that the party does not suffer from any internal sabotaging or politicking that could harm its chances.

Its national disciplinary committee deputy chief Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin Megat Khas said operatives had been put in place in all states to monitor developments in all divisions.

"They may not necessarily be Umno members. They could be retired teachers or civil servants."

He said there were up to six operatives in each state and these people also moved from state to state in order to get independent and unbiased views from the grassroots.

The operatives had been appointed directly by the national disciplinary committee and nobody knows their roles except for the committee.

Megat Najmuddin said Umno now had a better understanding of the dynamics in the various divisions and had been able to identify the various factions and "hotspots", where trouble could be brewing.

He said if reports from these operatives indicate any detrimental actions by any Umno member, the committee would swing into action immediately and haul them up.

"We will be acting on them before the elections, not after as it will be rather academic then."

He said the 22-member disciplinary committee had so far gone down to Perak, Selangor, Perlis and Kedah for meetings, where this new initiative had been explained to the local chiefs.

Later in the day, Tengku Adnan told the New Straits Times he hoped the month-old initiative by the disciplinary committee would be some sort of a watchdog for the party.

"We now have feelers all over and a system is in place to deal with recalcitrants."

From the meetings in the states, he gauged that Umno members were responding well as they understood the seriousness of the issue.

"They now realise that they cannot go about doing what they like without any consequences. They must know the do's and don't's during an election."

Political analyst Prof Dr Chin Yew Sin has described the move by Umno divisions to nominate those outside the party ranks as "radical and non-traditional", one that would benefit the party in the long run.

He believed it was in the divisions where Umno or BN had lost in the last general election which had nominated such candidates.

"They had (probably) looked among the party ranks for suitable candidates for the next general election but could not find one."

"Thus they know that in order to win they will have to bring in outsiders, those who are Umno-friendly and popular through work in non-governmental-organisations."

Dr Chin, president of the Oriental Strategy Research Centre, added that this showed the support of the grassroots to party president Najib's call to find the right winnable candidates.

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