

Smooth Wanita Umno, Youth And Puteri Elections Despite Technical Glitches
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- The delegates' meetings and elections of the three wings in Umno generally went on well today although small problems cropped up in a number of divisions.

Party secretary-general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said out of the 191 Umno divisions, less than 10 per cent had problems.

"These were only technical glitches with no serious effects and we feel relieved, while there were also problems like the questioning of the status of certain delegates," he said when met at the Putra World Trade Centre, here, Saturday.

Tengku Adnan said the Umno headquarters was also constantly monitoring today's proceedings to ensure it went on smoothly.

"We will also keep observing and improve on the new election method being used in terms of information dissemination and delivery or implementation in preparing for the party's supreme council election next week," he said.

Meanwhile, Umno executive secretary Datuk Ab Rauf Yusoh said the party headquarters welcomed any constructive criticism, views and suggestions to improve the running of the party elections using the new system.

"We see that several aspects can be improved based on the minor problems that cropped up today so that these can be fine-tuned or corrected in time for another round of party elections next week," he said.

Rauf said the technical problems that arose mostly involved administration but these could be resolved through mediation introduced by the party election committee and the headquarters.

"Although there were technical problems at a number of divisions, these were resolved and the meetings and elections successfully completed due to the wisdom of the secretariat people who were given training at the election simulation exercise held in Janda Baik recently.

"We also noticed some logistic problems in the distribution of ballot papers, but these could also be resolved," he said.

On a defective vote counting machine in Bagan, Penang, Rauf said it was due to a technical problem as the party election workers were still not adept at using the machine.

"The machine is supposed to have a limit for counting but the workers thought it had no limit, and kept feeding it with ballot papers with some getting stuck in the machine," he said.

It is learnt that the other two machines were functioning and the counting process proceeded smoothly.

Rauf said other problems like ballot papers not reaching the intended destination or accidentally exchanged with another division's, and electricity supply disruption were also resolved.

"Whatever the teething problems, we observe that most of the delegates are receptive to the party's new election system.

"They are prepared to accept the transformation introduced by the party's top leadership and implemented right from the grassroots level," he said.

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