

Candidates Welcome Party's Decision To Ease Restriction On Campaigning
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SEREMBAN, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- The Umno Disciplinary Board's decision to ease its election campaign restrictions by allowing candidates to openly campaign, has received positive reaction from candidates vying for posts.

Though considered a little late, candidates felt that the decision would allow those vying for posts to reach out to the voters, especially delegates, and introduce themselves and put forward their aspirations.

Prior to the decision, the party only allows candidates to campaign in party organised events, a rule that many candidates consider restrictive since most do not have the exposure and access to members nationwide.

Former Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, a candidate for the post of Umno Vice President, said easing restrictions would allow candidates to freely campaign, instead of being cautious of breaching party rules.

"Candidates are sometimes not sure of what they can do and cannot do. So, I feel easing the restriction is a move in the right direction," he said when met at Klana Resort, here Tuesday while attending a function to introduce candidates.

Umno Supreme Council candidate Datuk Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin said easing the restriction would allow unknown candidates to promote themselves or introduce themselves to the delegates in person instead of relying on Facebook postings.

"If candidates have to depend on Facebook and party organised events, it will be difficult for unknown candidates to expose themselves," she said.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Idris Haron who is also vying for a Supreme Council (SC) post however, feels whether there was restriction or not, it would not be a big problem for candidates to campaign.

"Every candidate must have his or her own method to introduce themselves to the voters or delegates, as long as they did not breach the party's rules," he said.

Yesterday, Umno Disciplinary Board Acting Chairman Tan Sri Megat Najmuddin Megat Khas was reported to have said that the board had eased restrictions and allowed candidates to campaign freely, as long as they do not run down each other.

Before the new development, a number of candidates had criticized the party for not allowing candidates to freely campaign.

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