

S.T. - 8 MAR 1972
KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Former Alliance MP for Kota Star Selatan, Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, who was expelled from Umno in September 1969, has returned to the party fold.

The Umno disciplinary committee which met today decided to allow him to rejoin.

In Alor Star tonight, when told of the decision, Dr. Mahathir said: "I am happy to hear it. I hope to be able to serve Umno in any way that is possible for me.

"I hope this will mean that I can play an active role in national politics."

The Umno disciplinary committee meeting was chaired by Umno national deputy president, Tun (Dr.) Ismail in his capacity as chairman of the committee.

Other members of the committee who attended the meeting were Tan Sri Syed Nasir bin Ismail, Tan Sri Syed Ja'afar Albar, Inche Musa Hitam and the party's secretary-general, Inche Senu bin Abdul Rahman.

Directive

Three other members of the committee were unable to attend the meeting. They were Inche Abdul Ghafar bin Baba, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafe and Senator Alshah Ghani.

Inche Senu said the meeting was held following a directive from the Umno supreme council on Jan. 15.

No decision was made at the Umno supreme council meeting because Dr. Mahathir then had not written to the national president, Tun Abdul Razak, why he wanted to re-join the party.

Dr. Mahathir wrote the letter on Feb. 6 and the decision to accept him as a member was made on the basis of the letter.

Approval

In the letter, Dr. Mahathir said he still believed in the party's policy and struggle, Inche Senu added.

Inche Senu said that under the party constitution, an application from an expelled member must be approved by the Umno supreme council.

It is understood that Dr. Mahathir submitted two applications to re-join the party — one through the Rawang Umno division in Selangor and the other through the Umno division in his old constituency of Kota Star Selatan.