

# Mahathir takes over Selangor Umno

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THE Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, has taken temporary charge of the Selangor state committee of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (Umno), which had been controlled by the former Mentri Besar, Dato Harun Idris, before his expulsion from a party.

Informed Selangor political sources said Dr. Mahathir became temporary chairman of the state Umno committee during the weekend pending selection of a new chairman.

Selangor Umno initially reacted to the Umno Supreme Council's expulsion of Dato Harun on March 18, with a public statement three days later, that it continued to recognise Dato Harun as Mentri Besar and an Umno member, because the Council's action was invalid.

The Supreme Council, in expelling Dato Harun and stripping him of the posts of Umno Youth president and as Umno vice-president, accused him of creating party disunity and causing public confusion which

could ignite nationwide chaos.

## Precedence

The Selangor committee was later brought into line by Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Hussein Onn who persuaded it to call a special session last Thursday of the Umno-dominated state assembly which voted Dato Harun out of office by 25 for and one against a no-confidence motion.

According to sources prospects of a sizeable chairmanship of Selangor Umno has precedence because Datuk Hussein became chairman of the party committee in Trengganu last week to replace the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak, who died

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## Harun meets his constituents

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in London last January. As these two top party leaders, together with their cabinet colleagues, also extend their control over Umno committees in other states, prospects of a sizeable revolt against the Supreme Council have receded, the sources added.

Dato Harun, who remains an independent State Assembly member, has turned his full attention to his constituency of Morib as his sole base of political support.

He followed up the visit of Morib constituency members to his home here by motoring there yesterday to meet them again.