

Barisan doors

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open to all parties if...

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The doors of the Barisan Nasional are open not only to Pas but also to other political parties which are willing to conform to its principles, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

However, the Barisan Nasional will not take the initiative to invite the parties to join it, he added.

He told newsmen after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting here that there was no necessity for the Barisan to hold discussions with Pas on the subject and that so far there had been no official contacts over the issue between the two sides.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also chairman of the Barisan Nasional, was commenting on recent exchanges in the Press regarding the possibility of Pas rejoining the Barisan.

Pas had left the coalition in late 1977 following the Kelantan crisis.

He said this matter was not discussed at today's meeting.

The Prime Minister said the Supreme Council had given its unanimous support to the Government for its directive that all contract offers to British companies be referred to his department.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he had explained to the council the Government's recent move on tendering of contracts to British firms.

He added that he had not received any request for further clarifications from the British High Commission here on the matter.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had recently issued a directive that Government agencies which wished to tender out contracts to British firms must first submit the name of an alternative firm, which must not be British, to his Ministry.

This directive is understood to mean that Malaysia wants to reduce the number of contracts given to British firms.

British commercial circles had reportedly stated that they would seek further clarification on the move but it would not be from the Prime Minister "to avoid a confrontation."

The Supreme Council today approved the appointment of new committee members to the various bureaux of the party appointed at an earlier meeting.

The council decided that all donation drives, organised by either the branches or divisions, must first receive the green light from the party headquarters.

This move was to prevent such activities from being carried out without permission and in a wrongful manner.

The meeting discussed the ways of overseeing these activities as some Umno branches had compromised the good name of the party.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said some schemes of the branches had not been authorised by their divisions.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said in reply to a question that the council did not discuss the position of Pahang Menteri Besar Haji Abdul Rahman Bakar.

Asked if the meeting also discussed the date for the general elections speculated to take place next year, he said it did not.

"Even if it was discussed, I will not let you know," he added in a lighter vein.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir stated Datuk Haji Mustapha was still the secretary-general of Umno.

He said the position of Datuk Haji Mustafa was not discussed and added: "The secretary-general of Umno still sits on my left."

These comments were seen as finally putting an end to recent Press speculation

that the post would be given to Datuk Haji Harun Idris.

Datuk Haji Harun had said he would accept the post if directed to do so by the party president.