

Umno discusses BMF report



DR MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The discussion on the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance (BMF) report at last night's Umno Supreme Council meeting centred on the innuendoes and statements it contained which could implicate several innocent public figures.

It is understood that the council members were informed that many of these statements had been made without providing the related background or explanations from the people involved.

This, they felt, was a major drawback.

Another complaint was that the committee had apparently not made any effort to get in touch with the personalities and institutions involved, although it would certainly have had access to them.

Various points of law had also been raised during the discussion on the BMF report,

which had largely been in a question and answer form between some members of the council and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

They had mainly voiced their concern over the publicity given to the issue as well as the statements made by Tan Sri Ahmad Noordin, who chaired the committee.

One of the sentiments expressed was that they had been bombarded by questions and had been unable to provide any explanation, simply because they had not seen or studied the BMF report.

It is understood that the members of the Supreme Council, however, ultimately accepted the explanations given by the leadership to the controversy surrounding the question of making the BMF report public.

Dr Mahathir told newsmen after the meeting that the Cabinet will decide at its meeting next week whether to make public

the report.

He said the Cabinet would take into consideration all views given so far on the publication of the report.

He was also waiting for the views of Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman on the various legal implications pertaining to the publication of the report.

Asked whether the Cabinet would weigh the views made by Umno Youth to publish the report without those parts considered libellous, the Prime Minister said: "The Cabinet will consider the opinions of all quarters, including that of the Attorney-General."

Dr Mahathir added that he had not yet received Tan Sri Abu Talib's legal opinion on the report.

"We have given him two weeks to submit his report."