

UMNO POST MAY BE SCRAPPED

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Umno executive secretary's post may be scrapped and administrative affairs placed under the party's secretary-general.

Sources said the proposal had been submitted to party chief Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The matter now rests with the Prime Minister who will decide whether to agree to the proposal or continue to have an executive sec-

retary," a source said.

The sources said the proposal forwarded to the Prime Minister suggested that if the post was still needed, the person selected must not be an MP, party division head or someone holding other important posts.

"An executive secretary as a salaried staff should not be too active in politics or hold any important posts, or else he will be too involved in politics and won't have time for his job.

"He must also be a person who is

neutral and not be aligned to any personality. Above all, he must be loyal to the leadership and party," said the source.

He said Umno could be more effectively run by the party's secretary-general with the help of two special assistants.

He, however, declined to say whether the special assistants would be recruited or taken from the existing pool of Umno officials at the headquarters.

The executive secretary's post is now vacant following the resigna-

tion of Parit MP Nasruddin Alang Saidin on Aug 31. He held the post for only 10 months.

He is said to have resigned because certain quarters in Umno were not happy with his appointment and were not co-operative.

Secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid had said recently that "there are enough officials in Umno headquarters to carry out the job."

Dr Mahathir had also said that it was better that Encik Nasruddin resign because he was an MP and had to carry out his duties.