

# New Umno formed

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By NURAINA SAMAD

**KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. —** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today announced that a new party — Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Baru) or United Malays National Organisation (Umno) — had been registered.

The party was accepted as a member of the Barisan Nasional by the supreme council of the coalition which met this morning.

Members of the pro-tem committee of the party are Dr Mahathir as president, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba as deputy president, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat secretary and Finance Minister Datuk Paduka Daim Zainuddin treasurer.

The party replaces the old Umno, which was de-registered following the High Court decision on Feb 4 declaring it an unlawful society.

"The Registrar of Societies confirmed the party's registration to the pro-tem committee yesterday," said the Prime Minister at a Press conference after the one-hour Barisan supreme council meeting at a hotel.

Barisan supreme council members elected MCA president Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik as chairman. He chaired the first part of the meeting which accepted the new Umno as a member of the coalition. He gave up the chair after Dr Mahathir was re-elected chairman by the full council of 39 representatives from 13 parties.

Dr Mahathir said the application to register the new party was submitted by former Umno leaders, including himself, Encik Ghafar, the Menteri Besar and Chief Minister and former Umno supreme council members.

He said the registration of the new Umno was made after thorough preparation to ensure that the correct procedure was followed.

"We know that attempts will be made to prevent us from reviving Umno. We were

- THOSE WHO TOOK UMNO TO COURT NOT CONCERNED WITH PARTY: DR M
- BARISAN LEADERS HAIL FORMATION OF PARTY
- MORE PLEDGES OF SUPPORT
- WE MEANT WELL, SAYS TUNKU

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very careful so that these attempts will not succeed," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the application to register the new party was made after they were informed that the (old) Umno had been de-registered.

Among the processes that had to be followed to set up the new party was awaiting the Registrar of Societies' response to the "old" Umno's reply to her (Registrar) "show cause" letter why it should not be de-registered.

Dr Mahathir said the committee had earlier submitted an application to register a party called Umno 88 on Feb 9, a day after Umno Malaysia's application was made.

However, the Registrar rejected the applications of both Umno Malaysia and Umno 88 because the old Umno had not yet been de-registered then.

The new Umno committee then submitted a fresh application on Feb 13 and its registration was confirmed yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the committee could not make public its actions earlier.

"As I have said, we are not the sort to *pukul canang* (beat the drums). When we are silent, it does not mean that we are not doing anything," he said.

Registration of members of the new party would be conducted soon and the exercise is expected to be completed within a year. A general assembly would be convened "when the time comes".

Dr Mahathir, responding to reporters' questions, said everyone could apply to become members but not all would be accepted. Former Umno members would not automatically become members of the new party — they would have to make a fresh

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## QUESTION OF ASSETS BEING STUDIED

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application.

"Loyalty to the party" was the most important consideration for membership.

"Those who had worked to destroy Umno and caused it to become unlawful, of course, will not be accepted."

On the question of assets of the old Umno, he said it was being carefully studied by several ex-members of the party.

He also said the new party's constitution was "more or less" similar to that of the old Umno.

Later, the management of the Pan Pacific Hotel, where the meeting was held, presented a cake each to Dr Mahathir — to mark the rebirth of Umno — and to Encik Ghafar to celebrate his 63rd birthday on Thursday.