

U E926 AAE BMX

UMNO-AMEND

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 13 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO BARU SUPREME COUNCIL HELD A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TONIGHT TO AMEND THE PARTY CONSTITUTION TO GIVE MORE WEIGHTAGE TO THE DIVISIONAL LEVEL CHOICE OF THE CANDIDATES FOR PARTY PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT, IN WHICH THE NOMINATIONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY CARRY 10 VOTES EACH.

PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHAHATHIR MOHAMAD TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING THAT THE SESSION ALSO AMENDED THE CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT, AND NO LONGER ELECTION, OF THE PARTY'S YOUTH AND WANITA WING CHIEFS.

HE SAID THEY WERE NEW PROVISIONS, THE FIRST AIMED AT PROVIDING AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF THE GRASSROOTS' CHOICE AT THE BRANCH AND DIVISIONAL LEVELS. IT APPLIES TO ONLY THE TWO TOP POSTS.

WHEN ELECTIONS FOR THESE POSTS TAKE PLACE DURING THE PARTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE AUTOMATIC VOTES VESTED IN THE DIVISIONAL LEVEL NOMINATIONS WILL BE COUNTED TOGETHER WITH THE VOTES CAST BY THE ASSEMBLY DELEGATES.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THERE HAD BEEN INSTANCES IN THE PAST WHERE DIVISIONAL DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN VOTING IN THE PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT HAD NOT RESPECTED THE CHOICES MADE BY THE DIVISIONS THEY WERE REPRESENTING.

THE SECOND PROVISION WAS TO REDUCE POLITICKING IN THE PARTY, HE SAID.

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0259MST 14 04 88

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THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE SUPREME COUNCIL MET IN TWO SESSIONS TONIGHT, ONE THE SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AMEND THE PARTY CONSTITUTION AND THE OTHER A ROUTINE MEETING TO DISCUSS PARTY MATTERS.

HE SAID +THE AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING CONSTITUTION BUT GENERALLY WE ARE USING THE OLD CONSTITUTION.+

HE SAID THE CHANGES WERE TO CHECK UNHEALTHY PRACTICES OF THE PAST WHERE SOME PEOPLE HAD USED MONEY POLITICS TO INFLUENCE ELECTIONS, ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO PREVENT MEMBERS NOT SUPPORTING CERTAIN CANDIDATES FROM TAKING PART IN THE ELECTIONS, AND MEETINGS HELD IN PRIVATE HOMES WITH THOSE PRESENT TREATED TO A LAVISH REPAST AND PEOPLE CONSIDERED +UNDESIRABLE+ NOT INVITED TO THESE FUNCTIONS.

+BECAUSE OF THIS, WE FEEL WE NEED TO REDUCE ELECTION POLITICKING AND THE THING WE WANT TO AVOID FROM OCCURRING IN UMNO BARU IS INCIDENTS WHERE PEOPLE TRY TO BLOCK OTHERS FROM BECOMING MEMBERS OR PEOPLE FORM BRANCHES TO UNDERMINE CERTAIN LEADERS.

+WE CAN OVERCOME SUCH PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF OUR SYSTEM WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS HAS THE RIGHT TO RATIFY APPROVAL OF MEMBERSHIP.

+THIS MEANS IF A DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE DOES NOT LIKE A CERTAIN PERSON TO BECOME A MEMBER OR A CERTAIN BRANCH TO BE FORMED, THE MEMBER OR BRANCH CAN GO DIRECT TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ACCEPTANCE.+ -- MORE

0314MST 14 04 88

U E930 AAE BMX
UMNO-AMEND 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ELABORATING ON THE TWO NEW PROVISIONS IN THE PARTY CONSTITUTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT +IN THE PAST ELECTION, WE FOUND THAT 80 BRANCHES NOMINATED A CERTAIN CANDIDATE BUT THE VOTES POLLED BY THE CANDIDATE CONCERNED AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS NOT REFLECTIVE OF THIS SUPPORT, SHOWING THE DELEGATES HAD TOTALLY DISREGARDED THE DECISION MADE BY THEIR DIVISIONS AND GAVE THEIR VOTES TO SOMEONE ELSE.+

HE SAID THIS WAS AN ANOMALY AND THE MEETING TONIGHT DECIDED TO GIVE MORE WEIGHT TO THE CHOICE OF THE DIVISIONS APART FROM THAT OF THE DELEGATES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID DELEGATES WHO VOTED AGAINST THE CHOICE OF THEIR DIVISIONS WERE DEFYING THE WISHES OF THE GRASSROOT.

+WE FOUND THE DELEGATES HAD BEEN INFLUENCED INTO DOING SO AND WE THEREFORE FEEL IT IS NECESSARY TO GIVE RECOGNITION TO THE NOMINATIONS MADE BY THE DIVISIONS BECAUSE WE ARE A GRASSROOT PARTY AND NOT A PARTY OF 1,500 DELEGATES.+ -- MORE
0348MST 14 04 88

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+IF THESE 1,500 PEOPLE CAN MAKE DECISIONS AS THEY LIKE AND THEIR DECISIONS ARE NOT CONSONANT WITH THE WISHES OF THE GRASSROOT, THEN THEIR POWERS MUST BE CURTAILED A BIT AND RETURNED TO THE ORDINARY MEMBERS.+

HE STRESSED THAT UMNO BEING A +MASS-BASED+ PARTY MUST GIVE DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE +MASSES.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO SAID EMPOWERING THE SUPREME COUNCIL TO APPOINT THE NATIONAL YOUTH AND WANITA HEADS FROM AMONG THOSE ELECTED AS DIVISIONAL LEVEL HEADS WAS TO AVOID THE OCCURRENCE OF UNHEALTHY PRACTICES DURING THE NATIONAL LEVEL ELECTIONS FOR THE TWO CHIEFS.

THE YOUTH AND WANITA NATIONAL CHIEFS APPOINTED WILL BE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AND PARTY VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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0350MST 14 04 88

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U E932 AAE BMX
UMNO-AMEND 5 KUALA LUMPUR

ON DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HE SAID UMNO BARU DIVISIONAL CHIEFS WERE AUTOMATICALLY DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY BUT NOT THE YOUTH AND WANITA DIVISIONAL HEADS WHO WOULD HAVE TO UNDERGO ELECTIONS TO BE CHOSEN AS DELEGATES.

THIS WAS BECAUSE IF THE YOUTH AND WANITA DIVISIONAL HEADS WERE ALSO AUTOMATICALLY MADE DELEGATES AS IN THE PAST, THEY WOULD BECOME THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION OF CERTAIN PEOPLE LOBBYING FOR SUPPORT IN THE SUPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS AT THE ASSEMBLY, AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL, ACCORDING TO HIM, DOES NOT THINK THIS A HEALTHY STATE OF AFFAIRS.

HOWEVER, TO MAKE UP FOR THEM LOSING THEIR AUTOMATIC STATUS AS ASSEMBLY DELEGATES, THE NUMBER OF YOUTH AND WANITA DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM THE FIVE FORMERLY TO 30 TO ENSURE THEY DID NOT LOSE OUT ON THE STRENGTH OF THEIR REPRESENTATION.

HE SAID THE PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PRESIDENT, THREE VICE-PRESIDENTS AND 25 SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD BE ELECTED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

ON ELECTIONS AT BRANCH AND DIVISIONAL LEVELS, THEY WOULD BE CONDUCTED LIKE BEFORE, THAT IS, TO ELECT THE HEAD, COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND YOUTH AND WANITA HEADS AT THEIR RESPECTIVE LEVELS. -- MORE
0357MST 14 04 88

D395

U E933 AAE BMX
UMNO-AMEND 6 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO BARU HAD BEEN APPROVED (BY THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES) AND THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAD THE LEGAL RIGHT TO HOLD THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO AMEND THE PARTY'S CONSTITUTION.

+HOWEVER, AT THIS SPECIAL MEETING, WE AGREED THE CONSTITUTION BE TABLED FOR APPROVAL.+

APART FROM THE SPECIAL SESSION, THE SUPREME COUNCIL ALSO HAD AN ORDINARY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FILLING OF MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORMS.

ON THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, HE SAID MANY HAD FILLED IN THE FORMS BUT NONE WERE VALID MEMBERS AS YET AS THE COUNCIL HAD STILL TO RATIFY THEIR APPLICATIONS.

PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT GHAFAR BABA, WHO IS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, SAID THE AMENDMENTS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE REGISTRAR TOMORROW FOR APPROVAL.

-- BERNAMA

0402MST 14 04 88