

Top Umno posts — nominated candidates get 10 votes

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By SABRY SHARIF

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Nominations for the posts of president and deputy president by divisions of the new Umno will automatically carry 10 votes for the candidates.

This is in addition to the votes to be cast by party delegates at the triennial general election. At the last election of the old Umno in 1987 there were nearly 1,500 delegates.

This was one of the major amendments to the Umno constitution approved at the party's extraordinary general meeting tonight.

Another major amendment empowers the party supreme council to appoint Youth and Wanita heads and deputy heads from among divisional heads and deputy heads.

Pro-tem president Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said this after chairing a three-hour extraordinary general meeting and a separate supreme council meeting.

He said the amendments were necessary to avoid the intense politicking experienced by the de-registered Umno.

Specifically, he wants the practice of money politics, lobbying for votes through *kenduris* and other social functions and closed-door *ceramahs* stopped through this move.

He said that in the last Umno election, the stand of the grassroots at the divisions as reflected by the nominations of the candidates for the presidency and deputy presidency were not respected by the delegates.

"These delegates, in other words, did not respect the majority consensus of the 1.4 million party members."

On the amendment to the election of Umno Youth and Wanita

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heads, Dr Mahathir said that previous experience had shown there was also intense campaigning for these posts.

"We have seen many un-healthy practices during the election of Umno Youth and Wanita heads and deputy heads. With these amendments, we are confident that politicking will be reduced significantly."

Dr Mahathir said another amendment was that the Supreme Council would be the authority to approve membership.

He added that the Umno Youth and Wanita national executive committees would continue as before to appoint State heads and deputy heads.

There will also be no other changes to the election process at branch and divisional and supreme council levels.