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MAHATHIR-ASSEMBLY
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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 21 (BERNAMA) -- UMNO BARU WILL HOLD ITS FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER TO APPROVE ITS CONSTITUTION AND DETERMINE THE TENURE OF ITS SUPREME COUNCIL, PARTY PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE ASSEMBLY WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATED BY DELEGATES SELECTED AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL, HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER CHAIRING THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT SRI PERDANA HERE.

HE SAID THIS WAS BECAUSE EFFORTS TO ORGANISE BRANCHES WERE STILL ON AND WE CANNOT HAVE APPOINTMENTS AT DIVISIONAL LEVEL BEFORE HAVING APPOINTMENTS AT BRANCH LEVEL.

AS SUCH, THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM THE UMNO BARU CONSTITUTION AND ALSO DETERMINE THE TENURE OF THE PRESENT SUPREME COUNCIL, HE SAID.

BY NEXT JANUARY IT WAS EXPECTED THAT ALL BRANCHES WOULD HAVE RECRUITED ENOUGH MEMBERS TO HOLD MEETINGS AND SET UP COMMITTEES AND SELECT DELEGATES TO THE DIVISIONAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID. -- MORE
1718MST 21 05 88

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HE SAID DIVISIONAL CONFERENCES WOULD BE HELD IN APRIL NEXT YEAR AND WOULD BE PARTICIPATED BY BRANCH DELEGATES TO APPOINT THE DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE AND DELEGATES TO THE PARTY'S SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD BE HELD ON A DATE TO BE FIXED LATER, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE STANDING ORDERS FOR THE UMNO BARU GENERAL ASSEMBLY, DELEGATES CONFERENCES AND BRANCH MEETINGS HAD ALREADY BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES.

ON MEMBERSHIP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE RECRUITMENT EXERCISE WAS SLOGGISH DURING THE FASTING MONTH AND WAS EXPECTED TO PICK UP FROM NOW ON.

HE WAS UNABLE TO GIVE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS OF UMNO BARU BECAUSE APPLICATION FORMS WERE STILL BEING RECEIVED AT DIVISIONAL AND BRANCH LEVELS. -- MORE
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ALTHOUGH 200,000 PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN REGISTERED AS UMNO BARU MEMBERS, THERE WAS STILL A NUMBER OF APPLICATION FORMS WITH THE DIVISIONS AND BRANCHES, HE SAID.

ON THE ENGLISH DRAMA ENTITLED 'AMONG BARBARIANS' WHICH PORTRAYS MALAYSIA AS AN UNCIVILISED NATION, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: 'IT TAKES A BARBARIAN TO RECOGNISE ANOTHER.'

THE ENGLISH DRAMA FEATURES TWO BRITONS WHO WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN MALAYSIA.

BEFORE THE SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR RECEIVED A CHEQUE FOR \$20,600 BEING DONATIONS COLLECTED AT MOSQUES ACROSS KEDAH FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S FUND. THE COLLECTION WAS ORGANISED BY THE SULTAN OF KEDAH. -- BERNAMA
1733MST 21 05 88