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KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 21 (BERNAMA) -- THE UMNO BARU SUPREME COUNCIL TODAY DECIDED THAT ALL STATE ASSEMBLYMEN AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MPS) OF THE OLD UMNO WHO OPPOSED THE NEW PARTY BE EXPELLED FROM THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN).

UMNO BARU PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID THE COUNCIL'S DECISION WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE BN SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ACTION.

THOSE AFFECTED INCLUDED MPS AND ASSEMBLYMEN WHO HAD MADE KNOWN THEIR STAND OF NOT WANTING TO JOIN UMNO BARU OR HAD DECLARED THEMSELVES AS INDEPENDENTS, HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE UMNO BARU SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING AT SRI PERDANA HERE.

THREE MPS OF THE OLD UMNO -- FORMER WELFARE SERVICES MINISTER DATUK SHAHRIR ABDUL SAMAD (JOHOR BAHRU), FORMER DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK RADZI SHEIKH AHMAD (KANGAR) AND ENCIK TAWFIK TUN DR ISMAIL (SUNGAI BENUT) -- HAVE ALREADY DECLARED THEMSELVES AS INDEPENDENTS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TOLD REPORTERS LATER THAT THE NUMBER OF ASSEMBLYMEN OPPOSED TO UMNO BARU WAS SMALL. -- MORE

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UMNO BARU'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE BN NOW ARE DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR (BN CHAIRMAN), DEPUTY PRESIDENT GHAFAR BABA (SECRETARY-GENERAL), TREASURER DATUK PADUKA-DAIM, ZAINUDDIN (TREASURER), TERENGGANU MENTERI BESAR DATUK AMAR WAN MOKHTAR AHMAD, EDUCATION MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM AND FORMER DEFENCE MINISTER DATUK ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI.

ON PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF UMNO BARU, WHICH WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, HE SAID IT WAS FOUND THAT THE PARTY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH STAFF TO HANDLE REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS AND TO ORGANISE THE PARTY AT DIVISIONAL AND BRANCH LEVELS.

AS SUCH THE COUNCIL HAD DECIDED THAT 18 YOUTH AND WANITA LEADERS BE ADDED TO EACH OF THE 10-MEMBER DIVISION COORDINATION COMMITTEES SO THAT THE TWO WINGS COULD BE REVIVED AT THE DIVISIONAL AND BRANCH LEVELS, HE ADDED.

A 20-MEMBER COORDINATING COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORMED AT THE BRANCH LEVEL TO HELP IN THE ORGANISATION AND MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION OF THE PARTY AT BRANCH LEVEL, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS THE PRIME MINISTER.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK AS UMNO BARU YOUTH HEAD AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ AS WANITA HEAD.

UMNO BARU'S NEWLY-APPOINTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ENCIK YAKOB MOHAMMAD, AND DATUK PADUKA DAIM TOOK THEIR OATH OF OFFICE AT TODAY'S MEETING. -- BERNAMA

1656MST 21 05 88