

Dissidents to be expelled

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno will recommend that all MPs and State Assemblymen from the old Umno who refuse to join the new party be expelled from the Barisan Nasional, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today.

This recommendation will be submitted to a BN supreme council meeting to be held before Parliament re-convenes next month.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Umno supreme council at the Prime Minister's residence, Sri Perdana, today.

The dissidents include Johore Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Samad, Sungai Benut MP Tawfik Tun Dr Ismail and Kangar MP Datuk Radzi Sheikh Ahmad. The three have publicly declared that they would not join Umno and that they now considered themselves as independents.

Dr Mahathir said there was also a small number of State Assemblymen who would be recommended for expulsion. One of them is involved in a court case against Umno.

Speaking to newsmen at the end of the meeting, he said the names of these Assemblymen would be tabled at the BN meeting.

Generally, he said, all those who refuse to join the new party would be recommended for expulsion from the BN.

"We cannot say now how many members from the old Umno are joining the new party because the membership figures are still being tabulated by computer," he said.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, elaborating on those whose expulsion will be sought, said they included those who:

- had worked against the formation of Umno;
- are not likely to support the new party; and,
- have declared themselves as independent MPs or State Assemblymen.

Datuk Mohamed said the number of such people could not be ascertained at the moment.

The figure would be revealed at the BN supreme council meeting, he added.