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KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 13 (BERNAMA) -- ALL MALAYS, INCLUDING FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DEREGISTERED UMNO, WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE NEW UMNO IF THEY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THESE INCLUDED THE GROUP OF 11 WHICH TOOK THE PARTY TO COURT RESULTING IN IT BEING DECLARED AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY ON FEB 4, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

+ANYONE WHO ACCEPTS THE POLICY OF THE PARTY'S STRUGGLE AND MATTERS INVOLVING THE STRUGGLE ARE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME UMNO MEMBERS,+ HE SAID.

ACCORDING TO HIM, THE DECISION WAS MADE IN AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING CHAIRED BY HIM HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO UMNO PRESIDENT, TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING THE DECISION WAS REACHED FOLLOWING MANY REQUESTS FROM FORMER UMNO MEMBERS AND OTHER MALAYS TO BE ALLOWED TO JOIN UMNO.

+IN LINE WITH THE PARTY'S DEMOCRATIC POLICY WHICH CONSIDERS THE VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE SITUATION IN THE PARTY WHICH HAS STABILISED, ANYONE APPLYING WILL BE ACCEPTED,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE PARTY TOP LEADERSHIP HAD COMPLETED GEARING UP THE PARTY MACHINERY WITHOUT ANY HITCH. -- MORE

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THOSE ELECTED TO THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF UMNO LAST YEAR BEFORE THE PARTY WAS DEREGISTERED COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR RETENTION IN THE POST IF THEY APPLIED TO JOIN THE PARTY.

THREE FORMER SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS OF THE OLD UMNO -- DATUK AJIB AHMAD, DATUK KADIR SHEIKH FADZIR AND HAJI RAHIM BAKAR -- HAD JOINED THE NEW UMNO AND WERE RE-ACCEPTED INTO THE SUPREME COUNCIL TODAY, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID INDEPENDENT MP FOR LABUAN ABDUL MULK ANANG DAMIT HAD BEEN ADMITTED INTO UMNO FOLLOWING HIS APPLICATION.

UMNO WOULD APPLY TO DEMAN RAKYAT SPEAKER TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR ISMAIL TO RE-SEAT HIM AT THE GOVERNMENT BENCH.

THE MEETING WHICH LASTED NEARLY FOUR HOURS ALSO DISCUSSED PREPARATIONS FOR THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED FROM OCT 28-30.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PARTY ACCEPTED SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS FOR DEBATE AT THE ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING TO AMEND PROVISIONS IN THE PARTY CONSTITUTION WHICH HAS TO BE RATIFIED BY THE ASSEMBLY.

HE SAID THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESOLUTIONS WAS YESTERDAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID UMNO WOULD ALSO INVITE ALL INDIVIDUALS HAVING CONNECTION WITH THE OLD UMNO TO ATTEND THE ASSEMBLY AS OBSERVERS. -- BERNAMA

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