

# Razaleigh and Musa invited to meeting Umno Baru open to all Malays

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno Baru, in a bid to unite the Malays, has thrown open its doors to all members of the community and invited Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam to a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Encik Ghafar Baba.**

This was decided today at a five-hour meeting of the party's supreme council chaired by president Dr Mahathir.

The meeting also appointed former Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ajib Ahmad, former Deputy Foreign Minister Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and Haji Rahim Bakar to the supreme council.

They were elected to the de-registered Umno's supreme council in April last year but were not included in the council of Umno Baru when it was formed early this year. Datuk Ajib and Datuk Kadir were dropped from their posts when Dr Mahathir reshuffled the Cabinet after the old party's elections.

"Others who were elected in the Umno elections last year would also be considered for positions in the supreme council once they have applied to be members of the new party," said Dr Mahathir at a Press conference after the meeting.

The council also admitted Independent Labuan MP Abdul Mulok Awang Damit. The party will apply to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail to reseat him at the Government bench.

Dr Mahathir said the decision to allow all Malays to join the party without exception was made because the process of organising the party and recruiting members was over.

Moreover, he added, it was made known to the party leaders that many of its members and the Malays wanted all Malays to be given the right to become members of the party.

He said: "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.

"But they must accept the struggle of the party."

On whether members of the "group of 11" (whose court action to have the Umno elections declared null and void had caused the party to be declared unlawful by the High Court in February) would be accepted, he said: "They have the right to apply."

When Umno Baru was formed it was announced that at least 100 former Umno members, including those who had caused it to be de-registered, would not be accepted into the new party.

Asked about the change in stand, Dr Mahathir said being democratic the party had responded to calls by its members.

On the party's invitation to Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa, he said it was to discuss "the Umno problem and Malay unity".

On when was he going to invite them, he said: "Now." Asked when it would be held, he said: "Anytime ... anytime at all."

To another question, he replied that the objective of the meeting was to "meet and discuss".

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council also discussed the resolutions to be tabled at the party's general assembly scheduled to be held from Oct 28 to Oct 30.

He said one of the resolutions was on the amendments to the party's draft constitution.

NSMOT 16 OCT 1988

# **Ex-leaders invited to attend assembly**

★ **FROM PAGE ONE**

Dr Mahathir also said former leaders who were in any way affiliated with the new Umno would be invited as observers to the assembly.

Present at the Press conference were party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and vice-presidents Anwar Ibrahim, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Amar Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

Heads of the party's Wanita and Youth wings, Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz and Datuk Seri Mohamed Najib Abdul Razak, were also present.