

Old Umno rules won't be restored: Dr M

By Zulkifli Talib and
Rozani Din

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The old Umno constitution is not likely to be restored, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

However, the present constitution could be amended, the Umno president told reporters after chairing a supreme council meeting at the party headquarters here.

The Prime Minister said the 1946 constitution had been amended 10 times, and "the present one is an evolution of the original."

“As far as we are concerned, the present constitution is based on the original and we are satisfied with it” he said.

Dr Mahathir said no state had written to the headquarters in support of the resolution by the Johor Malays Unity Forum to bring back the 1946 constitution.

Asked whether the present constitution would be amended so that the Youth and Wanita chiefs would be elected during the general assembly, he said: “We have yet to decide on this, but it is possible that they will in future

be elected by the general assembly. However, it will not be done in the next general assembly.”

He said the meeting, lasting more than three hours discussed “domestic affairs, it was housekeeping.”

Among other things, it discussed the problem of bankrupts who are holding elected posts in the party, contravening the Umno constitution, he said.

“Two or three divisions face this problem and will have to hold their elections again before the general assembly,” Dr

Mahathir said.

Apart from such problems, preparations for the general assembly on Nov 16 were going smoothly, he said.

On the Sungai Besar state by-election, he said the Barisan Nasional was confident of retaining the seat.

“We are getting ready for the by-election and we are confident of winning,” he said.

Sungai Besar Assemblyman Haji Abu Samah Nordin, 62, died on Oct 4.

PAS is reported to be interested in contesting in the by-election.

S 08 OCT 1989