

Green light for division and branch leaders to approach former leaders

Umno supreme council accepts unity resolutions

NET 14 JAN 1989

By SABRY SHARIF

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri., - The Umno supreme council today gave its full backing to the six resolutions proposed by the Johore Malay Unity Forum to help restore unity among the Malays.

The implementation of the resolutions will, however, have to "comply with the existing provisions in the constitution," Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The supreme council also gave the green light to the party's branch and divisional leaders to approach former branch and divisional leaders who are aligned with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam to work towards Malay unity.

Speaking to newsmen after the supreme council meeting today, Dr Mahathir said Umno will have to refer to its constitution regarding any move to adopt provisions of the constitution of the **deregistered** party.

One hundred and seventy two delegates representing 51 Malay organisations in Johore unanimously passed the **six-point** unity resolutions at a forum in Johore Baru on Dec 18.

These resolutions called for:

- all members of the deregistered party in Johore to be automatically accepted and registered by the party;

- acceptance of the national Umno leadership elected during the party general assembly on April 24, 1987;

- restoration of the Umno leadership, elected by divisions and branches in 1987;

- steps to be taken to adopt the constitution of the deregistered Umno, according to the provisions of the present party's rules;

- all administrative and legal steps to be taken to ensure that the party remains the sole Umno organisation in the country; and,

- creation of an atmosphere conducive to unity, goodwill and good relations.

Elaborating on Dr Mahathir's statement that these resolutions would be implemented within the framework of the existing party's constitution, Umno deputy **president** Abdul Ghafar Baba said members were free to propose amendments, to the constitution.

This, he said, was provided for under clauses 26

↓ TURN TO PAGE 2. COL 3

Automatic entry for ex-Johore Umno members

NST 14 JAN 1989
★ FROM PAGE ONE

and 28 of the Umno constitution.

He added that the constitution stipulated that branches and divisions needed to call extraordinary general meetings (EGMs) to discuss and approve the amendments.

"These amendments will be accepted if more than half of the branches and divisions approve them," he said.

On the decision of the supreme council to allow branch and divisional committee members to approach former leaders aligned with Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa, Encik Ghafar explained that although this applied to Johore, committees in other States could do the same if necessary.

Invitation

Dr Mahathir also said members of the deregistered party from Johore would get automatic membership if they applied.

On how soon the Umno branches and divisions in Johore could hold their EGMs to propose amendments to the constitution, Dr Mahathir said: "Any time."

He said although the move to amend the constitution was initiated by the Johore Malay Unity Forum, "the supreme council will not bar divisions and branches in other States from adopting a similar move".

He added that the Johore Umno alone would not succeed in getting these amendments approved as it has only 18 divisions. The constitution requires that more than half of the 134 Umno divisions support such a move.

He also confirmed that the invitation to five former Umno leaders aligned with Tengku Razaleigh and Datuk Musa to become supreme council members — positions which they held before Umno was deregistered last year — were either rejected or ignored.

The five are Datuk Shahrir Samad, Datin Paduka Hajah Rahmah Othman, Datuk Radzi Shelkh Ahmad, Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin and Haiah Marina Yusof.

Datuk Shahrir, in his reply, said he would accept the invitation if certain conditions were accepted by the Umno leadership. Datuk Radzi rejected the invitation while Datin Paduka Hajah Rahmah, Datuk Zainal Abidin and Haiah Marina had not responded.

Three other former Umno leaders, Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad, Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and Datuk Abdul Rahim Bakar, who had been supreme council members before the deregistration of Umno, were appointed to the council recently by Dr Mahathir.