

Supreme council defers decision on Shahrir

Umno accepts dissidents

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno today accepted several dissidents, including those associated with the group calling itself *Semangat 46*.

Among them are the MP for Sungai Benut, Encik Tawfik Ismail, State Assemblyman for Endau, Encik Khadri Sabran, and State Assemblyman for Bandar Tenggara, Haji Adam Hamid, all from Johore.

Also accepted were former Umno Youth executive council member Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, former Negri Sembilan Wanita Umno leader Datuk Hajah Khatimah Ibrahim, former Batu Gajah division head Yusof Kassim, former Kuala Selangor division Youth head Daud Tarihep, and Hamdan Yahya who was the defeated independent candidate in the Parit Raja by-election last October.

The Umno supreme council which met for four hours at party headquarters today, however, deferred decision on the application by the MP for Johore Baru, Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad.

The council also accepted the application of former Pas vice-president Haji Nakhaie Ahmad.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told a Press conference after the meeting that Datuk Shahrir would have to explain his past actions and statements before the supreme council could consider his application.

Dr Mahathir, who chaired the meeting, said the council would send a letter to Datuk Shahrir seeking his clarification.

"We agreed to accept former members who had applied to join the party except those who were directly involved in activities that are still questionable to Umno," he said.

It is understood the council would ask Datuk Shahrir to explain why he had campaigned for the opposition candidate in the Ampang Jaya by-election in January when Umno had already agreed to accept the resolutions of the Johore Malay unity forum.

He would also be asked to explain what he meant when he stated that he would pursue the *Semangat 46* struggle from within Umno.

On the application of former Seremban division head Haji Zain Ibrahim, Dr Mahathir said the council had decided to seek the views of the division before making a decision.

A similar decision was made in the case of former Pas legal advisor Haji Suhaimi Said who sought to join the Temerloh division.

He said the membership of Encik Tawfik, Encik Khadri, Haji Adam and Encik Daud would be back-dated to before March 31 — the deadline for former members to submit their application forms for automatic registration.

Dr Mahathir said this meant that they could take part in the forthcoming branch and divisional delegates' meetings as well as contest for posts at both levels.

He said the membership of Encik Tajuddin, Encik Yusof, Datuk Hajah Khatimah and Encik Hamdan took effect today while that of Haji Nakhaie was effective from April 27, the date of his application.