

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 3 (BERNAMA) -- THE ISSUE OF PALACE INTERFERENCE IN POLITICS MAY BE DEBATED DURING THE UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY BEGINNING NOV 29 BECAUSE OF THE GREAT INTEREST IT HAS GENERATED, UMNO PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD INDICATED TODAY.

UMNO'S RESOLUTION SCRUTINISING COMMITTEE MIGHT ADOPT A MOTION ON THE ISSUE FOR DEBATE DURING THE ASSEMBLY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE.

IT WAS A NORMAL UMNO PRACTICE THAT IF A MOTION GENERATED SO MUCH INTEREST AMONG ITS MEMBERS, THE COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE THAT FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT, HE SAID.

+SO FAR, THE SUPREME COUNCIL HAS YET TO KNOW THE FORM AND SUBSTANCE OF THE ACTUAL MOTION PROPOSED BY TWO DIVISIONS IN PULAU PINANG, + HE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER THE MEETING.

THE JELUTONG AND TANJONG UMNO DIVISIONS WOULD PROPOSE THE MOTION WITH NINE OTHER DIVISIONS IN PULAU PINANG, MELAKA AND KEDAH SECONDING IT.-- MORE

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MAHATHIR-RESOLUTIONS 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IF THE RESOLUTION SCRUTINISING COMMITTEE ADOPTED THE MOTION, IT WOULD ENSURE THAT THE CONTENT WAS PROPERLY PRESENTED.

IF IT NEED BE, THE PHRASING OF THE MOTION WOULD BE MODIFIED TO CONVEY THE DESIRED MESSAGE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID BECAUSE SO MANY DIVISIONS HAVE MADE THEIR STAND ON THE ISSUE, THE SUPREME COUNCIL COULD NOT STOP THEM FROM TABLING THE MOTION.

HE SAID THE COUNCIL WAS AWARE OF THE CONTROVERSY THAT TRANSPIRED DURING THE RECENT GENERAL ELECTION WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE PROPOSITION OF THE MOTION.

HOWEVER, THE COUNCIL DID NOT WANT TO INFLUENCE ANY QUARTERS, HE SAID.

+IT IS UP TO THEM TO TABLE WHATEVER MOTION PERTAINING TO DEVELOPMENTS IN ANY STATE WHERE THE RULER INVOLVES HIMSELF IN POLITICS, + HE SAID. -- MORE

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MAHATHIR-RESOLUTIONS 3 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

TODAY'S MEETING DECIDED TO DISALLOW SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CHAIRMEN OF STATE UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEES TO OPEN DIVISIONAL DELEGATES' MEETINGS OTHER THAN THAT OF THEIR OWN DIVISIONS, EXCEPT FOR THE FEDERAL TERRITORY.

THE DIRECTIVE COVERED THE OPENING OF GENERAL MEETINGS OF UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO DIVISIONS AS WELL, HE SAID.

ONLY PARTY DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GHAFAR BABA WHO IS FEDERAL TERRITORY UMNO LIAISON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WAS ALLOWED TO OPEN SIMULTANEOUSLY DELEGATES' MEETINGS OF SEVEN UMNO DIVISIONS HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HIMSELF WOULD ONLY OPEN THE KUBANG PASU DIVISION DELEGATES' MEETING IN HIS CAPACITY AS DIVISION CHIEF.

THE DECISION WAS TO SAVE TIME AND MINIMISE CAMPAIGNING FOR ELECTION TO PARTY POSTS DURING THE ASSEMBLY, HE SAID.

+WE WANT TO BE FAIR TO ALL. THEREFORE IT'S GOOD THAT THE MEETINGS BE OPENED BY THE RESPECTIVE DIVISION LEADERS, + HE SAID.

THE COUNCIL ALSO SET NOV 18 AS THE DEADLINE FOR DIVISIONAL MEETINGS INCLUDING FOR UMNO YOUTH AND WANITA UMNO SO THAT ALL REPORTS COULD BE RECEIVED IN TIME BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.--