

We can't stop the tabling of motion: Mahathir

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"It is up to them (delegates) to table whatever resolution concerning developments in any state where the ruler has involved himself in politics.

"Since so many have made their stand on the matter, we cannot stop them from tabling the motion."

Dr Mahathir also said today's meeting decided to bar all supreme council members and state liaison committee chairmen from opening any delegates conference other than that of their own division.

"A delegates conference, including that of the Youth and Wanita wings, should be opened by the chairman of the division concerned," he said.

"There is also no need for any division to invite supreme council members to attend its meeting, even as observers."

Dr Mahathir said the move was to reduce politicking and to save time.

He said he would open the delegates meeting of the Kubang Pasu, which he heads.

Only the seven divisions in the Federal Territory would be exempted from this rule, he said.

Their meetings would be simultaneously opened by Umno deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba, who is the FT liaison committee chief, he said.

Dr Mahathir urged all 134 divisions to complete their meetings by Nov 18 to allow the party headquarters ample time to prepare for the three-day general assembly.

The assembly will be preceded by the Youth and Wanita meetings on Nov 29.

Umno assembly may debate palace issue

By Wong Chun Wai

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — A resolution on alleged palace involvement in politics may be adopted for debate at the Umno general assembly next month.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the matter had generated a great deal of interest, with many in Umno stating their stand.

"And it is normal for the (resolutions) vetting committee to take into account interest among members," he told newsmen after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting here.

"If the committee adopts the motion, it will ensure that the content is properly worded. If necessary, the phrasing of the motion will be modified to convey the desired message," the Umno president added.

The Tanjung and Jelutong divisions in Penang had said that they would table a resolution expressing uneasiness over what they called palace involvement in politics.

The divisions had said that they had detected involvement from the palace in the political process in several states.

The Kedah and Malacca Umno state liaison committees were reported to have en-

dorsed the resolution.

Umno Youth chairman Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, in supporting the resolution, said that certain politicians had used royalty for their own interest.

Dr Mahathir said the issue was discussed by the supreme council, which met for over three hours.

"The council is aware of the controversy which arose during the recent general election. The council will not influence any quarters," the Prime Minister said.

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