

PM: No intention to change system

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By KHAIDIR ADB MAJID

UMNO has no intention of changing the present system of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, if there is any action or incidence which goes against the system, Umno has the right to voice its criticism, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, when asked to comment on what guidelines will be issued during the party's debate on a resolution pertaining to the constitutional monarchy.

But this criticism will not be done with the intention of toppling the rulers or to do away with the system of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy but instead will be aimed at maintaining it, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said after the party's supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur last night.

On Saturday, a resolution on the constitutional monarchy will be debated at the party's general assembly which begins today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the supreme council meeting agreed to the reappointment of Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as Umno youth chief and Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz as Wanita chief for another three years.

Datuk Napsiah Omar also was reappointed as Datuk Seri Rafidah's deputy, while former Youth exco member Encik Mohamad Nazri Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Yeop was appointed Youth deputy chief.

The supreme council also decided to send a team to help campaign for the Barisan



Nasional (BN) in the by-election for the Sipitang and Sulabayan state seats in Sabah. The Prime Minister said the party's deputy president, Encik Ghafar Baba, will also be in Sabah from December 4 to 7 to campaign for the BN.

On the general assembly, he said, 1,519 delegates are eligible to cast their votes in the election for the party's three elected vice presidents and 25 supreme council members today.

Voting will begin at 2.30pm today after the presidential address in the morning.

The vote counting is expected to take at least six hours and the results will only be known after midnight.

Meanwhile, asked on the Cabinet's stand on the United Nations resolution authorising force to drive Iraq out of occupied Kuwait, the Prime Minister said he cannot comment at the moment because details of the actual resolution and inputs by the Malaysian representatives in the UN Security Council during the debate on the issue have yet to be received due to the time difference.