

Dr M to head Kelantan Umno liaison committee

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will head the Kelantan Umno liaison committee with appointed supreme council member Haji Annuar Musa as his deputy.

Party deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba will head Umno's liaison committee in Sabah. The appointments were announced by Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister, after a supreme council meeting today.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council also agreed to the expansion of Umno to Sabah. He would be in Kota Kinabalu on Feb 21 to make an announcement on Umno's entry to the State.

After the meeting, Dr Mahathir said the supreme council discussed the offer by Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) to form a coalition Government with Umno in the State but no decision was made.

When told that the leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties and some Umno leaders had called on the Barisan leadership to apply caution in view of the fact that the PBS pulled out of the ruling coalition before the general election, Dr Mahathir said he was not surprised.

Sincerity

He said the PBS leadership must understand why the component party leaders were questioning their sincerity.

"They must prove their sincerity in wanting a coalition Government with a component party of the BN. However, we will discuss the matter when the BN holds its next meeting."

At today's meeting, Dr Mahathir said the supreme council appointed a five-member delegation, which

he will head, to meet the Rulers to submit the Umno resolution on the Rulers and the constitution.

Other delegation members are Encik Ghafar, vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"We will meet the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to hand over the resolution and a letter written by the supreme council. We will then meet the Rulers individually to discuss the contents of the letter written by the supreme council."

The supreme council decided that Umno members have to pay their subscriptions by May 31, and that all branch annual general meetings for this year will be held from June 1 to July 31.

The divisional meetings will be held between Aug 1 and Sept 30, and the general assembly in November.