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UMNO SETS UP COMMITTEE ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RULERS

Mahathir - code

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 7⁹² (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council today set up a seven-member committee to draft a working paper on a code of conduct for the Rulers. (P)

Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a comprehensive code, particularly on relations between the Rulers and the government, was necessary to avoid misunderstandings.

The committee comprises the party's three vice-presidents -- Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Umno Youth head Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Umno Wanita head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, treasurer Tun Daim Zainuddin and secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the council here today.

He said the working paper would be distributed, to members of, the council as soon as possible to enable them to study it before a final decision was made.

If necessary, he added, the Supreme Council would meet again during the fasting month to discuss the matter. -- more

▼07/03/21-44MST

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Mahathir - code 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said today's meeting, which lasted almost three hours and ended before the breaking of the fast, discussed at length the code of conduct and a proposal to amend the Federal Constitution...

He said the meeting felt that the proposal to change the constitution had to be studied in depth before any decision was made.

The proposed amendment related to the appointment of the Menteri Besar, State Executive Councillors, State Secretary, State Financial Officer and State Legal Adviser without the advice of the Istana.

On Feb 25, all the Supreme Council members except the president and deputy president presented to the Rulers a memorandum containing Umno's views on the involvement of the Istana in politics, business and administration.

The following day, the three vice-presidents along with the secretary-general and treasurer were summoned by the Conference of Rulers and asked to expedite the preparation of the code.

Today's Supreme Council meeting also discussed the Bukit Payung by-election, nomination for which has been set for April 9, and the problems of Muslims in Myanmar. -- more

▼07/03/22-09MST

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Mahathir - code 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional candidate for the by-election had yet to be determined.

The Supreme Council was +a little apprehensive+, because normally violence broke out in Bukit Payung during elections, he said.

He said the Supreme Council had asked the Home Ministry to give special attention to the by-election to ensure that the voters could cast their ballots safely.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council felt that the problem of Muslims in Myanmar should be given serious attention and had asked the government to adopt a stand on the matter.

The Supreme Council accepted the applications of Encik Mazlan Abu, former head of the Rakri Division in Johor and treasurer of Parti Semangat 46 in the state, and 400 of his followers to join Umno. -- Bernama

▼07/03/22-21MST