

CNS3203

U GE 02-05 00207 EA214

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DRAFT OF RULERS DECLARATION BEING FINE-TUNED

Draft-ethics

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk 'Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Rulers Declaration on the code of ethics for Malay Rulers could not be announced yet because the draft was being fine-tuned.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the Malay Rulers made several proposals at their meeting with a delegation from the Umno Supreme Council on April 25.

+As a result, several changes are being made to the draft before the Umno Supreme Council delegation meets again with the Malay Rulers,+ he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the council here.

On April 25, a Supreme Council delegation led by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, a party vice-president, presented the draft of the declaration to the Malay Rulers at Istana Negara.

The 12-page draft, originally known as the code 'of ethics for the Rulers, had its name amended to the Rulers Declaration at the meeting, attended by all the Malay Rulers except the Sultans of Kedah, Kelantan and Johor. The three sultans were reported to have expressed agreement in principle and would scrutinise the final draft. -- more

▼02/05/16-42MST

CNS3211

U GE 02-05 00170 EA215

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Draft-ethics 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said today's Supreme Council meeting 'also discussed the proposed implementation of +hudud+ laws in Kelantan, the national economy and Umno's assets.

Umno would go to court soon concerning its claim to the assets as the party had succeeded in gathering statutory declarations from 678,153 of the 1.2 million members of the old Umno, he added.

+At the moment, it is difficult for Umno to evaluate its property owing to rising prices. However, the **debts** of the party are also increasing because of the accruing bank interests as a result of the freezing of the party's assets,+ he said.

Umno's assets were frozen after the party was declared illegal by the High Court in 1988.

+Action must be taken as soon as possible to overcome the problem, and Umno will use its funds, amounting to \$200 million, in the hands of the Official Assignee to settle the debts,+ he said. -- more

▼02/05/17-02MST

CNS3212

U GE 02-05 00150 EA216

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Draft-ethics 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He also said in view of the economic recession being experienced by Malaysia's trading partners such as the United States, European countries and Japan, there was a need for Malaysians to step up efficiency and productivity to, maintain economic growth.

As a country dependent on trade, an economic recession experienced by its trading partners would have adverse implications on Malaysia's economic growth, he added.

Therefore, he said, all the Menteri Besar have been directed to ensure smooth administration to **facilitate** project implementation and help national economic growth.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council meeting also "extended congratulations to Terengganu Umno for the victory of the Barisan Nasional candidate in the Bukit Payong by-election recently, and gave a pat on the back to the security forces for ensuring a smooth by-election. -- Bernama

▼02/05/17-03MST