

Code of conduct: Rulers seek some changes

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Malay Rulers have requested that certain amendments be included in the proposed code of conduct drawn up for them by Umno.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno would seek another meeting with the Rulers as soon as possible to discuss the matter before making any decision.

Speaking at a Press conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting, he said that until then, it would be improper for Umno to make further announcement on the contents of the code.

The draft of the code of conduct was presented to the Rulers by a six-member Umnodelegation headed by party vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at Istana Negara last Friday.

On Umno's assets, the Prime Minister said a claim would be made through the court as soon as possible, now that a total of 678,156 Umno members have already signed their statutory declaration.

The number was more than half of the total Umno membership of 1.2 million before it was declared unlawful in 1988.

"We want to make the

claim as soon as possible because we don't want to continue paying hefty interests on our loans.

"We also want to invest the \$266 million cash now being kept by the official assignee to pay our liabilities," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also issued a directive to all Mentris Besar and Chief Ministers to monitor ongoing projects in their respective States.

He said this was to ensure that all projects were completed on time so that they could start contributing to the country's economy as soon as possible.

Dr Mahathir also said that Malaysia would have to be prudent to ensure that its economic growth would not suffer the effects of negative developments experienced by its major trading partners like United States and Japan.

Today's meeting also touched on the Bukit Payong by-election. The council commended the police for maintaining order, enabling voters to come out and cast their votes.

Dr Mahathir said many supporters of the Barisan Nasional were stopped from casting their votes by certain people during the last general election.