

Party panel accepts draft code of conduct for Rulers

By K.P. Waran

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Umno supreme council today endorsed the draft of the code of conduct for Rulers which will be signed on July 4.

Party president **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said Umno had completed its discussions with the Rulers on the code and their signing it was only a formality.

"An Umno delegation met the Rulers six times and the details have been agreed upon," he told a Press conference after the supreme council meeting.

The Prime Minister said the code would be submitted to the Cabinet before it was signed.

The code would specify the relationship between

the Rulers and the Federal and State leaderships and **define** the constitutional monarchy.

It would **also** set the regulations for the appointment of Menteri Besar, State Executive **Council**ors and State Government officials, apart from addressing issues, such as the involvement of Rulers in business and palace expenditure.

Asked what course of action would be taken if the Rulers wanted to further amend the code, Dr Mahathir said:

"We have finished our **discussions** with the Malay Rulers and they have agreed to it."

He said the supreme council meeting discussed the details of the code and the possible implications.

"There is nothing extraordinary in the draft and therefore we have accepted it. Details of the code would be announced after it is submitted to the Rulers," he said.

He said the meeting also discussed Umno's activities in Sabah and the preparations and strategies for the State election.

He said it was up to the Sabah State Government when it wanted to call the election.

"If they dissolved the State Assembly, an election has to be held within 60 days. We do not know when this will happen but we are prepared for it," he said.

Asked about the chances of the Barisan **Nasional** in Sabah, the Prime

Minister said he was confident the coalition would recapture the State.

Dr Mahathir also said the attempt by Pas to plant a flag on the disputed Pulau Batu Putih, off the Johor coast, was aimed at gaining political mileage.

It would not have any positive effects, the Prime Minister said.

"What happens if other people come into our territory and put up their flag. Do we go to war with them for it? It is no use doing symbolic things which have no benefit," he said.

"The issue will be resolved through negotiations based on the **principle** of cordial relations between the two countries," he said.