

CNS6819

U PE 31-10 00162 EG063

aae

Mahathir - UMNO

UMNO COUNCIL WON'T INTERFERE IN PROTEM COMMITTEES

bm

XUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 31 (Bernama) -- The UMNO Supreme Council will not interfere in the appointment of pro-tem committees of 12 new party divisions, created out of the review of electoral boundaries, if no disputes arise.

The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is party president, gave this assurance during a closed-door meeting with about 1,200 UMNO divisional leaders here today.

The question of membership of such committees, which has been a favourite topic among party members, was raised at the two-hour meeting.

Approached by reporters later, Dr Mahathir said :+ The Supreme Council will not interfere if all groups agree with the list appointed by the division chief .+

+But, if there are complaints and dissatisfaction which can possibly split UMNO, then it is inevitable that the council has to intervene,+ he said. -- more

▼31/10/19-51MST

CNS6831

U PE 31-10 00173 EG064

aae

Mahathir - UMNO 2 Kuala Lumpur

The current session of Parliament had already passed a constitutional amendment bill seeking to create 12 more parliamentary constituencies.

Dr Mahathir said in the event of a +misunderstanding+ which warrants interference by the Supreme Council, all groups should accept the pro-tem committees appointed by the party leadership.

He said intervention to settle dispute; was necessary to avoid UMNO from being split.

However Dr Mahathir hoped the appointment, of the pro-tem committees for the 12 new party divisions could be settled without any Supreme Council interference .

Dr Mahathir said the committees would be appointed after the Election Commission delineates the new constituencies .-- more

At the meeting Dr Mahathir also discussed with the divisional leaders party problems and struggles and preparations to face a snap election in Sabah.

The meeting was in keeping -with a party tradition on the eve of the UMNO general assembly scheduled for three days beginning Nov 6. -- Bernama

▼31/10/20-20MST