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Umno-Palace

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL TO DISCUSS GOMEZ ISSUE

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 9 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council will hold an emergency meeting here tomorrow to discuss the issue involving Mak'tab Sultan Abu Bakar (MSAB) hockey coach Douglas Gomez who alleged in a police report that he was beaten by the Sultan of Johor.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Umno president, said the meeting would discuss in detail the incident in Istana Bukit Serene, its implications and action to be taken by Umno regarding the matter.

+We want to discuss all matters from all angles. We do not know yet the actual situation (on what action that can be taken),+ he told reporters who approached him at Parliament, House here today.

He said that the Barisan Nasional Supreme Council would also discuss the matter on Saturday.

Dr Mahathir said today's Cabinet meeting also discussed the issue as it was normal for the Cabinet to touch on current matters of public interest.

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Gomez, 52, alleged in his report that he was beaten by the sultan of Johor after being summoned to Istana Bukit Serene on Nov 30.

He had earlier, criticised the Johor Hockey Association leadership over the forced withdrawal of the MSAB hockey team from the semifinals of the Malaysian Hockey Federation Schools Champion hockey tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir, who was asked whether the Cabinet made any decision on the issue, replied: +We will inform later.+

As to whether the Umno Supreme Council would recommend that the Council of Rulers convene, a meeting to discuss the issue, he said: +It is up to the council to decide. +

He also said it would depend on the Umno Supreme Council meeting whether to suggest amendment to the Federal Constitution on the position of the rulers.

Dr Mahathir did not dismiss the possibility that he would meet Johor State Assemblymen and Members of Parliament to discuss the issue when he visits the state on Dec 16. -- more

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He added, however, that such a meeting was not in the agenda of his visit.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about the latest development in the issue involving the allocation of 10 million Telekom Malaysia shares to Maika Holdings.

He said: From our angle (government), there is no more action until a report is made by the Anti-Corruption Agency.

He had yet to receive any report from the ACA and according to normal practice it would refer its cases direct to the Attorney-General for further action, he added.

In Shah Alam, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan. Sri Muhammad Haji Muhamad Taib said the Umno Supreme Council need to discuss the issue with care.

A Supreme Council member, he said every citizen had the right to be protected by the law.

The issue had resulted in various views from the people, including on the interpretation of the law which accorded immunity to the Rulers, he added. -- Bernama

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