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Umno to propose Usno's expulsion

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Umno supreme council will propose that Usno be expelled from the Barisan Nasional following its decision to form a coalition government with the PBS in Sabah.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the party would send a circular to the component parties, except Usno, informing

them of the proposal.

He said the Barisan supreme council would not hold any meeting and the component parties would need to only state their stand in the circular.

"No timeframe has been fixed for the component parties to sign the circular," he told a press conference after a three-hour meeting at party headquarters here yesterday (see also Page 2).

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan chairman, said it was up to the coalition to use the relevant regula-

tion to expel Usno.

Asked whether Usno will be out of Barisan for good as it was expelled from the Barisan once in 1984, Dr Mahathir replied: "It is possible."

Dr Mahathir also said the party had terminated the membership of Sabah Umno Wanita chief Aminah Ambrose, the wife of Usno president Datu Amir Kahar Tun Datu Mustapha.

The proposal to sack Aminah was made by Wanita chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz.

The Prime Minister also said Sabah Umno Wanita deputy head Kolna Ghani would be the acting chief.

Umno deputy president and Barisan secretary-general Abdul Ghafar Baba said a simple majority was all the Barisan needed to expel Usno.

At the news conference, Ghafar signed the circular which he said would be despatched immediately to all the component parties.

Usno, one of the 12 Barisan component par-

ties, went against the Barisan's wishes and forged a co-operation with PBS.

On the application by the Portuguese in Malacca to join Umno, Dr Mahathir said the party had yet to complete its research as to whether they could be classified as bumiputras.

He also announced that branches facing problems in accepting subscriptions could send them direct to party headquarters.