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Mahathir-Constitution

MORE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS NEXT MONTH. SAYS PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 11 (Bernama) -- The government proposed to further amend the Federal Constitution during next month's sitting of the Dewan Rakyat, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

One of the proposed amendments pertains to the provision which disallows a minister from being a state assemblyman but permits a Chief Minister to also be a Member of Parliament, he said.

"This amendment is necessary to correct 'an anomaly in this matter.'" he told a news conference after chairing an Umno Supreme Council meeting here today.

He said another proposed amendment seeks to disallow the holding of by-elections on the eve of a general election.

"Under the proposed amendment, we want to ensure that no by-election is held within the last two years before the next general election is due," he said.-- more

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Mahathir-Constitution 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said Umno also planned to organise seminars to upgrade bumiputera performance in education and human resource development.

The meeting appointed four supreme council members -- Koperasi Usaha Bersatu chairman Hassan Harun, Pulau Pinang deputy chief minister Dr Ibrahim Saad, deputy finance minister Abdul Ghani Othman and deputy public enterprises minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman -- to run the seminars.

"They can choose others who can help manage the seminars," he said.

The party felt such seminars were important because the level of bumiputera achievement in education and human resource development have yet to match the country's current rapid economic growth.

The Prime Minister said the move was also to determine whether there was uniformity in the education system adopted by private institutions especially those preferred by bumiputeras.-- more

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Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, honed the outcome of the seminars could help the government improve the quality of education and the development of human resources.

He said the party leadership had ruled that all Umno branches should accept members' subscriptions.

Party members who have paid up-subscriptions should not be barred from taking part in branch general meetings, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysia stood by its decision to send troops for United Nations' peace-keeping duties in Somalia although the situation there was reportedly unsafe.

The government had given such an undertaking to the UN and would honour its pledges, he said. -- Bernama

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