

# Dr M: Protest immediately

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## New rule to disqualify late objections

KUALA LUMPUR: Any protest on the validity of any Umno meeting will have to be filed immediately to prevent sabotage of proceedings under proposed changes to the party constitution.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the move, agreed to by the Supreme Council yesterday, would prevent anyone from sabotaging a meeting just because he lost in the elections.

"Under the new rule which will

be implemented next year, protests, especially against a person's status after the meeting, will no longer be entertained.

"This is to prevent certain quarters from planting people with questionable status, either bankrupts or non-members in meetings, and lodging protests later on if they lost in the party elections," said Dr Mahathir after chairing a council meeting here yesterday.

He said those who wanted to protest had also to provide necessary proof.

Party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the mechanics of the new rule had yet to be worked out.

"A committee will be formed to study the necessary changes needed in its enforcement," he added.

Dr Mahathir also announced the sacking of eight Umno members

who went to court to prevent the Tapah, Batu Gajah, Jelutong and Labuan divisions from holding their delegates conference.

The eight, he said, could appeal against the decision.

On calls by certain party leaders that the Youth and Wanita delegates conference be opened by their respective heads, the Prime Minister said the council had decided to stick to tradition and that the conferences would be open simultaneously by deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba.