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Umno-Mahathir

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL DISCUSSES PREPARATIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council, which met tonight, discussed last minute preparations for the party's general assembly tomorrow and the mode of voting for the election of the party's leadership.

Party's president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said voting would begin soon after the president's policy speech with the delegates casting their votes first.

"The Supreme Council members will be the last to vote," he told reporters after chairing the two-hour meeting, the last for the 1991/93 term...

The meeting was attended by all Supreme Council members, except for Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. Since Najib is no longer Umno Youth head, he is no more a member of the Supreme Council.

For this reason also, Najib, who is Defence Minister, will not be sitting together with the Supreme Council members during the general assembly. His place will be taken over by the newly-elected Youth leader Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also discussed today's general assemblies of the Umno Youth and Wanita Umno, expressing its congratulations to the winners in the election of the various posts. --more

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He said the meeting also went through the list of the delegates and the candidates contesting for Umno Supreme Council posts.

Dr Mahathir said this year's general assembly would discuss two motions, one on education and the other thanking the President for his keynote address.

The motion of thanks to the President would be proposed by the Perak Umno and supported by the Umno Youth while the motion on education by Selangor Umno and supported by the Wanita Umno.

Tonight's meeting also discussed the Wanita Umno's request to amend the party's constitution to provide for automatic appointment of one or two Wanita Umno delegates from each division to the party's general assembly, he said.

Dr Mahathir said this was to do away with the present practice of fixing a quota of 30 Wanita Umno delegates to the assembly. --more

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"We will discuss it again at the next Supreme Council meeting and if necessary, a special meeting will be convened to amend to the constitution," he added.

On the Umno Youth, Dr Mahathir said, "The new Umno Youth leader did not make any request."

At this juncture, Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz butted in by saying, "It's the same. The amendment applies also to the Umno Youth."

On Rahim's 44-vote majority in beating Negeri Sembilan Menteri Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad for the post, Dr Mahathir said, "That's not a small majority. In Umno, it's like that and it is normal. I also won with only 41 vote-majority."

In a lighter note, he said the delegates had a hard time deciding whom to vote "since both candidates are equally handsome, both are Tan Sri's and both are sporting beards." --Bernama

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