

CNS3166

U PE 08-01 00182 EA978

aae

Mahathir-Umno

SPECIAL BODY TO INCREASE UMNO MEMBERSHIP

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council decided at a meeting today to set up a special body which will be responsible for increasing the membership of the party.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the body would be headed by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, a vice-president of the party.

Dr Mahathir also said that Umno branches could be set up through the state liaison committees but all conditions must be met.

A freeze was imposed on the setting up of Umno branches before the party's general assembly last November to reduce the pressure of competition for posts at the level of branches and higher up.

"Today's meeting also discussed the problem of money politics and decided that only the party headquarters and state liaison committees will be allowed to collect any money," he told reporters after chairing the first supreme council meeting for this year. -- more

NIN MGN

▼08/01/15-25MST

CNS3187

U PE 08-01 00152 EA980

aae

Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir also said that the appointment of deputy state liaison committee chiefs had yet to be made except in the case of Sabah.

"The meeting decided that Senator John Ghani be appointed the Sabah Umno Liaison Committee deputy chief," he said.

He also said that today's meeting began with 10 members taking their oath of office.

They included two former vice-presidents, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, and the chairman of the Negeri Sembilan Umno Liaison Committee, Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad.

Four members who took their oath were new faces - Padang Terap MP Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar, Malaysian Institute of Economic Research (MIER) director Datuk Dr Kamal Salih, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Osu Sukam and Pasir Mas MP Haji Ibrahim Ali. -- more

NIN MGN

▼08/01/16-06MST

CNS3190

U PE 08-01 00087 EA981

aae

Mahathir-Umno 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Others who took their oath were Umno Youth deputy leader Datuk Nazri Aziz, Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (KUB) chairman Hassan Harun and Ahmad Sahibuddin Mohamed Nor.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the number of Umno members was expected to exceed two million before the next general election.

The party had set a target of two million membership last year but achieved only 1.95 million, he said. -- Bernama

NZ MGN

▼08/01/16-13MST