

Dr M: Party won't contest provision in Sabah constitution

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno will not challenge the Sabah State Constitution provision which allows six members to be appointed to the State Legislative Assembly, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Umno president and Prime Minister said the party's supreme council which met today decided not to pursue the issue.

The State Constitution provision became an issue following Parti Bersatu Sabah's narrow victory at the Feb 18 and 19 State elections when it won 25 of the 48 seats. The Barisan Nasional won 23.

Speaking to reporters after the 2½-hour meeting, the Prime Minister said council members also congratulated all Umno members who had worked hard for the Barisan's success.

He said the party would take action against Umno members or leaders who had worked against the party's interest in the elections.

"Those involved will be referred to the party's disciplinary committee," he said.

On a statement attributed to Umno Youth that it supported the Palestinian Movement for Islamic Struggle (Hamas), Dr Mahathir said he was informed that the movement did not make such a statement.

Datuk Mahathir also announced the appointment of the party bureau heads.

Deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim heads the Economy Bureau, Datuk Ghani Othman, Datuk

Dr Yusof Nor (Religious Affairs), Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik (Human Resources) and Datuk Abu Hassan Omar (Consumer Affairs).

He also announced the appointment of deputy State Umno liaison chairmen: Azmi Khalid (Perlis), Zakaria Said (Kedah), Dr Ibrahim Saad (Penang), Datuk Annuar Musa (Kelantan), Datuk Abu Hassan Omar (Selangor), Datuk Suleiman Mohamad, (Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur), Datuk Nasir Manap (Malacca), Datuk Khalid Yunus (Negri Sembilan), Datuk Mohamed Rahmat (Johor), Datuk Dr Yusof Nor (Terengganu), Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik (Pahang) and Datuk Mohamed Arshad Abdullah (Perak).

Dr Mahathir also announced that the party's branch annual general meetings including those of Umno Youth and Wanita would be held between May 1 and June 30.

The period for the division meetings would be announced after the Election Commission had completed its redelineation exercise.

Asked about the extraordinary party general meeting to amend the party's constitution, the Prime Minister said this would be carried out in June.

At last year's general assembly in November, Dr Mahathir had announced that an extraordinary general meeting would be held to take steps to curb money politics in party polls.