

Pro tem committees for all Umno branches

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said all Umno branches and its Youth and Wanita wings will be managed by pro tem committees from July 1, following the recent constituency delineation passed by the Dewan Rakyat.

They comprised 15,000 Umno branches, 10,000 Youth branches and 10,000 Wanita branches.

Twelve new divisions will also be set up following the exercise.

Dr Mahathir said the State liaison chairmen would be asked to propose their pro tem committees, including those for the 12 new divisions, to the Umno management committee before they are submitted to the supreme council for approval.

He said the action was necessary to streamline the various branches and divisions following the exercise.

"The pro tem committees will manage the branches and divisions until the general election, the latest by 1995, ... maybe earlier," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting today.

On the Umno general assembly, the Prime Minister said the supreme council had decided that it would be held probably from Nov 17 to 20.

Dr Mahathir also said that Umno has called on non-governmental organisations and foreign MPs to ini-

tiate efforts to resolve the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said the NGOs and MPs should pressure their Governments to take the necessary action to bring about peace in the war-torn country.

He also congratulated the Barisan Bertindak Bosnia for successfully organising the mass rally to demonstrate the support of Malaysians for the Bosnian cause.

More than 30,000 people of various races and walks of life, packed Stadium Merdeka to participate in the rally last Monday night.

The Prime Minister, who was on a two-week overseas trip then, had sent a message through his deputy Da-

tuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim condemning Serbian aggressors at the rally.

Dr Mahathir said the Umno supreme council also expressed sadness over the mass killings in Rwanda and supported the Government's move to call on the United Nations to take swift and firm action to stop the tragedy.

In Alor Star, Dr Mahathir told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport on his arrival for the launch of the national-level Teachers' Day celebrations that the Organisation of Islamic Conference should not wait until France withdraws its troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina to send its peacekeepers there.

In hailing the OIC's decision to deploy peacekeepers if the French troops were withdrawn, Dr Mahathir said:

"We should not wait until the French troops leave ... we should help them (Bosnians) as much as we could. For Malaysia, we do not wait ... if we do that, many people will die," he said.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the stand taken by the OIC to deploy peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina only if France decided to withdraw its troops.

On the proposed six-month ceasefire by the Western countries to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr Mahathir said if it could be implemented it

should not be carried out at the expense of the Bosnians.

He said the ceasefire should not be carried out by handing over the land belonging to the Bosnians to the Serbs.

"It has happened before ... the land belonging to the Palestinians were given away to the Israelis.

"It is not proper to take the lands belonging to the Bosnians to be given to the Serbs merely because the Serbs are stronger," he said.

France had called for a six-month ceasefire and suggested an independent Bosnia be formed to which Bosnians, Serbs and Croats would be joined in a confederated state.