

# Umno Youth age limit relaxed

**By Farush Khan  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno Youth members who are above 40 on Jan 1 this year can still sit on the movement's branch and divisional committees which will become pro tem committees in adjusting to the redelineation of electoral boundaries.

The relaxation on the condition of the age limit was decided at the Umno supreme council meeting at the Umno headquarters here today.

Speaking to reporters after the two-and-a-half-hour meeting, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that all branches affected by the redelineation exercise undertaken by the Election Commission would automatically become pro tem committees on July 1.

He added that the party's management committee, chaired by deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, would consider, on June 22, the line-up of the party's divisional pro tem committee members submitted by the State Umno liaison committees.

The State Liaison Committees have been asked to submit the pro tem divisions line-up by June 19.

"We will ensure that the administration of the divisions and the line-up of the pro tem committees follow Clause 13 of the party constitution," he said.

Clause 13 states that an Umno divisional committee must comprise 25 members, including a chairman, deputy chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer and information chief.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council also finalised procedures for the party's extraordinary general assembly scheduled for June 19 to amend the constitution in its efforts to eliminate money politics.

He said the assembly would amend the constitution to empower the supreme council to formulate a code of ethics.

A total of 1,786 delegates are expected to attend the assembly, to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir said the assembly would start with the opening speech by the party president, after which the deputy president would table the draft of the amendments on the council's behalf. It will be seconded by the youth wing.

Dr Mahathir said the deputy president would also wind up the debate by the delegates at the end of the assembly.

"I will also speak on the principle pertaining to money politics and the code of ethics before delegates vote for the approval of the amendments," he said.

Dr Mahathir said only one delegate would be allowed from each State to debate on the resolution which would then be discussed at committee stage.

Anyone could speak at the committee stage, he said, but the time for each of the speakers would be restricted.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting had also approved the setting up of Umno clubs in Jogjakarta and West Sumatra.

Speaking to reporters later, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the relaxation of the condition on the age limit of Umno Youth office bearers was to avoid problems at the grassroots level.

A number of Umno Youth heads elected in the last party election, he said, were above 40 now and the council felt it was only fair that the mandate of the delegates given to them be extended until the next party election.

Under the Umno constitution, only those aged 40 and below can be members of Umno Youth, except for the post of the national Umno Youth chief.