

Age limit for Umno Youth office bearers relaxed

By MARK KONG

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth members who reach 40 years of age on Jan 1 will be allowed to remain in the divisional and branch committees which become pro tem committees on July 1 following the redelineation of electoral boundaries.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the relaxation on the age limit for the movement's office bearers after a supreme council meeting yesterday.

Deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who heads the management committee, will decide on the line-up of the party's divisional pro tem committees in consultation with Dr Mahathir on June 22.

The state liaison committees are required to hand in their proposals on each of the 25-member divisional committees to the management committee on June 19.

"We will ensure that the administration of the divisions and the line-up of the pro tem committees adhere to Clause 13 of the Umno constitution," Dr Mahathir told reporters.

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

The relaxation on the age limit was to avert problems at the grass-

roots, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said later.

He said some of the Umno Youth heads elected in the last party election were over 40 now.

He said the supreme council felt the mandate given to them by the delegates should be carried through to the next election.

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

Dr Mahathir said a total of 1,785 delegates were expected at the one-day Umno extraordinary general assembly on Sunday to deliberate on the draft resolution to amend the constitution to check money politics within the party.

He said the amendment also provided for an enabling clause to allow the supreme council to enact a code of ethics to govern the conduct of members.

The code of ethics would not be tabled at the extraordinary general assembly, but the supreme council would explain the matter to the delegates.

Each state would be allowed one delegate to speak on the resolution during the debate which would be open to the floor, he said.

After the winding-up by Anwar, Dr Mahathir will speak on the principles relating to the proposed amendment to be followed by voting.