

Dr Mahathir to brief Umno leaders

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to brief the party information machinery on numerous issues confronting members today so that they would be better prepared for the coming general election.

Party secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the briefing to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre on Feb 15, would be attended by all party information committee members including those from the Wanita and Youth wings.

Mohamed has also invited division heads, deputy heads and secretaries to be present as the Prime Minister is also expected to issue new directives to party workers in the wake of the coming election.

Mohamed said one of the issues to be explained by Dr Mahathir was the proposal to prevent the use of the word "Islam" in the names of political parties.

He said about 2,000 people were expected to be present during the briefing which would be followed by the breaking of fast.

He also said that today's Umno management committee meeting chaired by deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, had decided that the party's second "dry run" or mock election aimed at strengthening its election machinery would be conducted immediately.

At last week's party supreme council meeting, Dr Mahathir had said that the meeting had decided to hold another dry run to strengthen the party machinery.

Mohamed, who is also Information Minister, said the

committee had decided that the dry run should be completed by the end of this month.

The list of supreme council members who would be visiting the various divisions and branches had been prepared and the Umno headquarters would issue the letters tomorrow, he said.

He said while the previous dry run was only concentrated on the divisions, this time around, attention would also be paid to the branches to find out if there were any problems at the grassroots level.

"It is important that any problem is detected now so that immediate remedial action can be taken," he said.

He said the dry run would also be beneficial in gauging the response of voters to the Government's programmes.