

Dr M: Reports on errant members to be sent in by May 31

Umno may sack more

By
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today more party members might be sacked for working against the party's interest during last month's general election.

He said the more than 40 members who had been expelled for openly contesting against Barisan Nasional candidates or supporting independents would not be forgiven and that Umno's door had been closed to them for good.

He said Umno would identify and expel other members if there was evidence to show they had carried out activities detrimental to the party during the election.

Umno branches and divisions have been asked to submit reports by May 31 on members who went against the party's interest during the polls.

Umno's disciplinary committee will then investigate and make recommendations to the supreme council.

Dr Mahathir said members or branches could write directly to the divisions or the headquarters on the matter.

Thirty-four Umno "rebels" were sacked last month for contesting in the election as independents. Of these, 33 lost their deposits for failing to garner at least one-eighth of the total number of votes in the respective constituencies.

"We are considering action against their supporters. There should be discipline in the party. If there is no discipline, a person who is not picked will go out and contest against the party, and then re-enter the party," Dr Mahathir said after

the Umno supreme council meeting.

"These people only think of their own self-interest and not the party. We struggle for the party."

Asked whether it was true that Parti Bersatu Sabah was considering re-joining the BN, Dr Mahathir said the party could not simply come in and leave the coalition as it wished.

"I did not hear anything. But they cannot come in and go out of BN like a room or hotel."

Replying to another question, Dr Mahathir said the BN would initiate legal action to contest the rejection of the nomination papers of its candidate for Gua Musang, Datuk Hussein Ahmad.

It will also take legal action to contest the Election Commission's decision to allow DAP MP for Bukit Bintang, Wee Choo Keong, to contest although he had been fined RM7,000 by the court.

Asked whether the legal proceeding will affect the Government's integrity since its Batu MP, Datuk Joseph Chong, had also been convicted in a Singapore court, Dr Mahathir said in Chong's case, the offence was committed outside the country.

"According to our understanding that (the offence) was outside this country and not related to this country."

"Our law applies to what happened in this country and not in other countries."

Dr Mahathir also announced that Umno's general assembly would be held from Nov 24 to 26 while the Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies would take place on Nov 23.

He said the branch meetings would be held between

June 15 and Aug 31, and divisional meetings between Sept 1 and Oct 1, in which there would be elections.

The Umno Youth and Wanita meetings at the branch and divisional levels will be held during the same

period.

On the Sabah Chief Minister's post which is to be rotated among the major ethnic groups of the State as promised by the BN Government during the last State election, Dr Mahathir said it would honour the prom-

ise.

He said the Kadazan/Dusun leader who would take over as Chief Minister could either come from Umno or other BN component parties since there were many State Assemblymen from that ethnic group.