

Decision is final, says PM

SIBU, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the decision to sack, suspend, or give show-cause letters to 95 Umno members for working against the party in the general election is a final one and cannot be challenged by anyone, even in court.

The Umno president said the party had the right to take such action.

"The decision to sack members was taken against those who were clearly wrong, such as standing as independents, as proposers, supporting the Opposition or standing as representatives of the Opposition.

"It is clear that such people no longer support the stand of the party, and therefore have no rights in the party anymore," he told a Press conference at the

Sibu airport this afternoon after paying a two-day visit to Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on statements by a few affected Umno members who said they were disappointed with the party's action.

On Saturday, the Umno supreme council expelled 61 of its members who were among 2,802 members who had breached party discipline. Out of the 61 sacked, 53 were expelled for life while the remaining eight would be allowed to appeal.

The meeting also decided to suspend 20 members and ask 14 others to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them. The council had given its mandate to the disciplinary committee to take the

necessary action against the remaining 2,707 members.

Dr Mahathir stressed that for those affected members who could appeal the action against them, their cases on whether to re-admit them would be heard later.

But for those who have been slapped with show-cause letters, they must reply within the stipulated time before further action was taken against them.

Dr Mahathir said the party had no use for members who only thought of themselves. "When they are on their way up, people help them. But when it comes to the others' turn, they turn their backs on them.

"We don't want such type of people in the political arena because they only think of themselves," he said.