

# 6mil-dollar man sacked

■ Tajuddin: I'm a victim of false accusation — p2

■ Seeking the best way to fight money politics — p17

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Umno showed it means business in fighting money politics by sacking Tajuddin Rahman, a member alleged to have splurged RM6 million in his bid to head the Pasir Salak division.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that based on evidence gathered, Umno's disciplinary committee determined that the businessman had indulged in money politics.

"We have unanimously decided that he be expelled from the party. He cannot contest any post because he is no longer an Umno member," Dr Mahathir told reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

The sacking ended speculation over the person dubbed the "Six Million Dollar Man."

Although the Prime Minister was only willing to say that Tajuddin had only spent "a large amount of money" to secure the leadership of the division, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat later confirmed that the businessman was the person who had purportedly spent RM6 million in his bid for power.

Deputy president and disciplinary committee chairman Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had provided evidence during the meeting to show that Tajuddin had spent a large amount of money to secure the leadership of the Pasir Salak division, now headed by Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

The evidence included documents and a photostat copy of RM1,000 which was given to a branch member, receipts for big receptions and letters from Umno members who had been given bribes.

On proposals that the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) be brought in to investigate money politics practitioners, Dr Mahathir said he believed that such matters should be resolved within the party.

"I feel that they should report practices of money politics to the party disciplinary committee because we have the machinery to handle it," he said.

● TURN TO PAGE TWO

# Dr M: We have to be firm in handling this matter

## ● FROM PAGE ONE

However, Dr Mahathir added, members who were not satisfied with the actions of the supreme council were free to take the matter to the ACA.

Dr Mahathir said the party would only act when it had sufficient evidence, and action

taken would be in accordance with the provisions lined out in the party code of ethics.

He said some cases may be acted upon immediately while show-cause letters and warnings may be issued for others.

Asked if an accused member could seek redress, Dr Ma-

hathir said: "We do not have a tribunal. But if the need arises, a member accused of practising money politics can request that his case be heard."

Dr Mahathir said although the party had amended its constitution to provide for action against money politics, errant

members would continue to do it as long as they believed they could get away with it.

"It is up to us to show how serious and firm we are in handling the matter. If we are firm, they will get the message," he added.