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Dr M warns branch leaders who reject new members

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Umno branch and divisional leaders who refuse to accept as members those whose memberships have been approved by the party's supreme council will face disciplinary action, including expulsion.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today branch and divisional leaders had no power to reject new members or their membership fees.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting, Dr Mahathir said if the party headquarters accepted them, the branch and divisions could not reject them.

"The refusal of the branch and divisional heads to accept new memberships including those of former Parti Melayu Semangat 46, is synonymous to trying to defeat the party.

"We will not lose anything if these people (branch and divisional leaders) are not in the party." He warned that complaints about branch and divisional leaders putting personal interests above the party's and refusing to accept new members would be investigated.

Former Semangat 46 Youth executive council Ahmad Baharuddin had earlier complained that the Kampung Terentang Umno branch in Jasin, Malacca had rejected the membership of 80 former Semangat 46 members.

The supreme council also decided that any party member who has been charged with any offence would not be allowed to contest party posts.

This does not apply to those being investigated for alleged wrongdoings.

"However, if they are charged and their case is pending, they will not be allowed to contest," Dr Mahathir said.

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