

06 OCT 1998

Mahathir-Umno

MAHATHIR CHAIRS UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight chaired the Supreme Council meeting at the party headquarters, here.

Dr Mahathir arrived at 8pm, hours after making a one-day working visit to Kuching, Sarawak.

Also attending the meeting are vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The meeting is expected to discuss issues involving the party and the government including the appointment of a new deputy prime minister.

The post is vacant following the sacking of Anwar from the government on Sept 2 and from Umno a day later.

Dr Mahathir was reported to have said on Sept 30 that he need to consult with his colleagues in Umno on whether to appoint a deputy prime minister before the party election next year.

The meeting will also decide on the Umno Youth chief's post following the resignation of Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi last Friday.

The meeting might also discuss the High Court's "gag order" restraining comments on the guilt or innocence of Anwar with regards to charges of sodomy and corruption to ensure that he would have a fair trial.

Another issue which might be deliberated is the proposal by Supreme Council member Datuk Mohamed Rahmat to review several decisions made by the party's management and disciplinary committee which was previously headed by Anwar.

-- BERNAMA

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