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Mahathir-Expel

10 UMNO MEMBERS EXPELLED, 18 GIVEN SHOW CAUSE LETTERS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Umno today expelled 10 members and issued show cause letters to 18 others including former Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi for their involvement in activities detrimental to party interest.

Among those expelled were three Umno Youth leaders -- assistant secretary Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, Negeri Sembilan chief Ruslan Kassim and Pulau Pinang head Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced this after chairing a three-hour party supreme council meeting here.

Also expelled were Petaling Jaya Selatan division deputy Youth chief Ezam Mohd Noor who is also the former political secretary to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, and Pasir Mas division Youth chief Dr Wan Hasni Wan Sulaiman, who is the chairman of Abrar Group International.

The others were Mohd Yahya Mohd Sharif, Abdul Shafid Omar and Putus Omar from Kuala Selangor division, Lokman Adam (Sri Gading) and Baharudin Ibrahim (Rasah).

Dr Mahathir said Umno Youth deputy chief Hishammuddin Tun Hussein had been appointed as the movement's acting chief.

The Umno Youth chief's post fell vacant after Zahid announced his resignation last Friday, two days after his release from detention under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

Zahid was detained for nine days for alleged involvement in activities threatening national security.

Dr Mahathir also announced that former Kedah state executive councillor Datuk Dr Wan Azmi Ariffin had been readmitted into the party.

Dr Wan Azmi, the former Jeneri assemblyman, was expelled three years ago for supporting an opposition party in the 1995 general election.

-- BERNAMA

SJA ZUL/SK