

08/12/1998

Najib to table motion to amend Umno charter

Fadzil Ghazali

THE special assembly to be convened by Umno this weekend will see party vice president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak tabling a motion on amendments to the party's constitution.

Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said party vice president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will wind up the debate on points raised in respect of the amendments.

He told reporters this after chairing a three-hour Umno Supreme Council Meeting in Kuala Lumpur last night.

Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Sabbaruddin Chik had said last week that 2,017 delegates were expected to attend the December 13 special meeting to review the party's constitution.

Amendments to 18 articles of the constitution will be tabled for approval. Among them are the proposed abolition of bonus votes for candidates vying for the posts of president and deputy president; and minimum requirements pertaining to eligibility to contest, for example, number of nominations and duration of membership.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council, which also discussed economic matters, is of the opinion that the rakyat now have a clearer picture of what is happening in the country.

"But we still need to hold meetings and discussions with them," he added.

The supreme council also condemned US Vice-President Al Gore and American financier George Soros for their remarks on Malaysia and the country's leadership.

Asked whether the uncalled for remarks would affect investors' view of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said: "Foreign investors will come when there are opportunities to make money."

On members being investigated by the Umno management committee, Najib said the council has decided to expel two members, suspend one and issue a warning to 11 others for their behaviour.

Asked about the tape-recording of the proceedings of the supreme council meeting during which former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was sacked, Dr Mahathir said the tape that has been circulated was heavily edited, particularly regarding Anwar's misbehaviour.

"We have decided to allow the distribution of the tapes which contain the full discussion at that meeting ... It is quite long, about four tapes," he added.

(END)