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Supreme council `may discuss Waad's position'

KOTA BARU, Fri. - The Umno supreme council may discuss Tampin Umno division chief Datuk Waad Mansor's position in the party at its meeting next week, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"I have not discussed anything (about Waad) yet. We may bring this matter up in the supreme council meeting," he told a Press conference after opening the Emtek '98 exposition at Sekolah Menengah Chabang Empat Pasir Mas/Tumpang school field.

Waad, who is the Negri Sembilan Education, Information and Human Resources Committee chairman and a four-term Gemencheh State Assemblyman, was charged in the Sessions Court on Wednesday with five counts of corruption.

On the decision by Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh not to be included in the Sabah Cabinet, Dr Mahathir said he (Ghapur) declined to be re-appointed and "had officially made the request to me". Ghapur was a Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister in the previous Cabinet.

Asked if another Umno representative would be appointed to fill the vacancy, he said: "We will choose someone. We will inform you in due time."

Asked if the general election would be held next year, Dr Mahathir said: "We still have a lot of time. We have until the year 2000."

"But what is more important is for the people to understand what is happening so that certain parties will not be able to use the economic problems for their own selfish interest," he added.

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