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Umno-Cassettes

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL AGREES TO PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIO CASSETTES

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council has agreed to the public distribution of audio cassettes of the recording of the supreme council meeting on Sept 3 when Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was expelled from the party.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that the decision was made as an edited version of the recording of the meeting had been found to be in wide circulation.

In the audio cassettes of the recording of the meeting now in circulation, parts of Anwar's speech had been erased to project a better image of Anwar.

"Now, we (Supreme Council) allow copies of all four original tape recordings of the meeting that day to be made available to anyone who wants to listen to them," he told a news conference after chairing a three-hour meeting of the supreme council at the party headquarters, here, tonight.

The party headquarters would make copies of the original tapes for distribution to the public as soon as possible, he said.

"Anyone who wants to listen to them will have to buy them...our party has no money now," he said.

Asked whether Umno would investigate how the recording of the meeting had been leaked out, Dr Mahathir said that it was very difficult to conduct an investigation.

"Nowadays, there are too many clever people and the level of technology is also very high," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that Umno would not lodge a police report and those who wish to know what actually happened at the meeting that night could obtain the copies of the recording from the Umno headquarters.

The Prime Minister said that the meeting tonight also discussed the Umno special assembly to be held on Sunday to amend the party constitution.

Seventeen motions would be tabled at the one-day assembly which, among other things, would abrogate the provision on the 10 bonus votes for the nomination of candidates for the posts of president and deputy president.

The prime minister said that the supreme council agreed that Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is the party's vice president, would table the motions while Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, another vice president, would wind up.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council also discussed about the post of Deputy Prime Minister.

He declined to disclose details but in jest said: "Those interested can apply."

The meeting also agreed to sack two party members, Wan Jusoh Wan Kolok of the Kuantan division and Baharuddin Abdullah of the Sepang division, for being involved in the "reformasi" (reform) movement.

Another member to be suspended is Beaufort Umno Youth leader Abdul Rahman Yaakub while 11 others were reprimanded.

The cases of several others including former Umno Youth leader Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Pasir Puteh divisional leader Kamaruddin Mohamed Nor and Tumpat divisional leader Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar are still being reviewed by the party's disciplinary committee.

Najib, who is co-chairman of the committee, said: "We want is for them to show commitment and help to strengthen the party."

The disciplinary committee has since September issued show-cause

letters to 47 Umno members who were said to be involved in the reformasi movement in support of Anwar.

-- BERNAMA

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