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Call to expedite allocations of low-cost houses

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Umno supreme council tonight resolved to urge Federal and State Governments and developers to expedite the allocations of low-cost houses, especially to Bumiputeras.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the council also discussed the need to speed up land acquisition approvals which would help low-cost housing development.

Dr Mahathir who is the Prime Minister was speaking to reporters after chairing a three-hour meeting of the council at Menara Dato' Onn here.

On Umno matters, he said the supreme council felt efforts to explain the current political scenario to party members and supporters had to be continued. Instructions had been given to the Youth and Wanita wings as well as Menteris Besar to spearhead the effort.

Asked to elaborate, he said it would involve "explaining to them directly".

"Sometimes, when we explain, there are those who deliberately try to confuse the people and some (members) have been taken in by them."

Asked to comment on the action of four Opposition parties which had decided not to participate in the Second National Economic Council, Dr Mahathir said it was up to them.

"They did not want to be tied to whatever decisions made so that they, as parties fond of condemning, can continue to do so. This is their style... they have no sense of responsibility at all.

"When we want to do something, we consult them, they refuse to join but when they are not consulted, they label the government as bad," he said, adding that views of all quarters had always been taken into consideration.

Dr Mahathir was also asked to comment on the proposal by the Stock Exchange of Singapore for a staggered release of shares with the Central Limit Order Book.

He said it was up to the shareholders to decide.

"I don't know about the SES... they (seem to) have control over these shareholders ... but if it is going to harm our share market, we are not going to allow it."

Dr Mahathir felt there had been too many proposals already on the CLOB issue.

"I think they better consider the (three) proposals and not come out with the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and all that... if not, there will be no end to this."

Three proposals have been made to resolve the impasse over the shares now worth RM14.5 billion held by 172,000 investors.

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