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Mahathir-Council

UPREME COUNCIL ELECTIONS POSTPONED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- The elections of Umno Supreme Council members, scheduled for June this year, has been postponed, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

This decision was reached in the three-hour Supreme Council meeting at the party's headquarters here.

Dr Mahathir told a press conference after the meeting that under the party's constitution, the Supreme Council elections could be postponed up to 18 months from the date of the party's general assembly which is scheduled in June this year.

"The existing members of the Supreme Council will thus be maintained," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the decision also meant that the post of Umno deputy president will not be filled until the Supreme Council elections expected in the 18 months time.

He said the decision to postpone the Supreme Council elections was to enable Umno to focus on preparations for the coming general elections "which have to be held not later than April 2000".

The Umno Supreme Council elections is held every three years. The elections is to fill the 25 Supreme Council seats as well as for the posts of party president, deputy president and three vice-presidents.

Dr Mahathir said the Supreme Council members were also unanimous in their decision for the post of Deputy Prime Minister to be filled now.

"As such, we have agreed that the post of Deputy Prime Minister be filled," he said.

He then announced the appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the new Deputy Prime Minister.

-- BERNAMA

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