

Dr M: A few may be picked

Not all- seniors who lost in polls sure of council seat

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By Sarban Singh

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today not all senior members who lost in the Umno election two weeks ago can expect to be appointed to the supreme council as there were only limited seats.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Prime Minister, said he had to be selective in appointing members because there were so many who could be considered.

"There are only limited seats . . . and I cannot appoint that many," he told reporters after opening the Fifth Asia Oil and Gas Conference 2000 here.

He was responding to questions from reporters who asked whether he had finalised the list of appointed members of the council.

As party president, Dr Mahathir can appoint 10 members to the supreme council. Twenty-five others

are elected.

Among the candidates who lost were Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar Tan Sri Isa Abdul Samad, Johor Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Othman.

Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim also lost while Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Syed Razak Syed Zain did not contest for any party position.

Dr Mahathir said he would consult his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, before finalising the list of appointments.

The council will hold its first meeting, after the recent party elections, on June 6.

On whether he had decided on the replacement for Umno information chief Datuk Dr Yusof Noor who won a seat in the council in the party election, Dr Mahathir said he has not.