

13/11/2000

`Two-thirds majority necessary'

Abdul Razak Ahmad

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - All of Umno's proposed constitutional amendments would require a two-thirds majority vote by delegates before it can be passed.

Party vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today that during the party's extraordinary general assembly this Saturday, each of the proposed amendments would be open for debate by the over 2,000 delegates from the party's 165 divisions nationwide.

In cases where objections were voiced, or where further amendments were suggested to the proposals during the debates, the matter would be referred to the council members.

"If the council decides that no further amendments be made to the original proposal that was tabled, the chairman would be able to call for a vote," he said.

Muhyiddin heads the committee which was tasked to gather ideas for proposals from the party at State-level.

Met by reporters after attending a meeting between party Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Umno division heads, here, he was asked on the procedure which the proposals would be tabled on Saturday.

"If the proposal from the supreme council fails to obtain a two-third majority vote from the delegates, then the one that wins will be adopted," he said.

However, he said that delegates would not be allowed to bring up proposals not among the ones agreed earlier to be tabled at the assembly.

Before today's meeting, the party's 165 division heads had been given copies of the proposed amendments.

On Oct 30, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, after chairing the supreme council meeting, had announced some of the proposals to amend the party constitutions which would be tabled.

They include those which would enable the party to hold its divisional and supreme council elections after each parliamentary election.

This would mean that the tenure in office for Umno supreme council members and members of the Dewan Rakyat would almost be the same.

Another proposal would allow the president to appoint 12 members to the ranks of the council's 25 elected representatives.

At present, the president is empowered to appoint 10 members to the council.

Of the proposed two additional council appointees, Dr Mahathir said one each must be sourced from Wanita Umno and Umno Youth.

Also to be tabled is a proposal for the appointment of Umno State Assemblymen and members of parliament to divisional committees, regardless of whether they contest for positions.

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