

Grade A officers may be allowed in politics

SUN 20 APR 2009

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GENTING HIGHLANDS, Thurs: The government will consider allowing Grade A government officers to be active in politics and even become Umno division heads if there is no conflict of interest.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that at present, the General Orders of the government do allow Grade A officers to be active in politics.

"Officers who want to be active in politics can seek permission from the government but it is up to us to grant permission," he said.

There is no problem with the General Orders governing the Grade A officers as there have been government officers involved in politics previously, he said when asked to comment on the election of Bank Negara Assistant Governor (Operations and Investment) Datuk Dr Awang Adek Husin as Bachok Umno division deputy chairman.

Mahathir was at Institute Aminuddin Baki here for the opening of the National Education Convention 2001 and dialogue session with education officers.

Last November, the Umno special general assembly had approved Article 6.3 of its constitution to allow Group A

government officers to contest and hold posts in the party.

Mahathir said the government cannot simply allow any government officer to be active in politics randomly as it may cause a conflict of interest.

"There will be a problem if

the division head is an office boy and he is working under a district officer as this will be a conflict of interest."

He said the government must be careful when considering all the applications before giving permission to such officers to be involved in politics.