

# ACA will step in if need arises: PM

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Mahathir says suspension reflects party's seriousness in combating money politics

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**PETALING JAYA, Sun:** Umno will refer the six party leaders at division level who have been suspended for indiscipline during the recently concluded division elections, to the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA) if the need arises.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said however,

no decisions have been made on whether to pursue the matter with the authorities.

Mahathir said the suspension reflected the party's seriousness in combating money politics and hoped that those who wanted to see a clean Umno would continue to support it.

"The disciplinary board has made its recommendations and the supreme council will endorse it. We cannot just reject it because we are serious about this matter.

"We want to end such practices in the party even though it will mean less support for us," he told reporters after launching the Dinosaurs Alive exhibition here today.

Mahathir said it is important for people to know that the party is clean and that the country is governed by "clean political parties".

On the affected divisions, Mahathir said they could either face re-elections or the supreme council may decide to give the vacant posts

to the unsuccessful contestants.

Asked why those who were suspended were allowed to contest in the first place, he said the council may have endorsed their candidacies before allegations of money politics came to light.

The party disciplinary board announced yesterday that it recommended that six Umno leaders be suspended for six years after they were found guilty of indulging in money politics.

The six are Gopeng division chief

Mustafa Kamal Mohd Nawi and its information chief Mohamad Annuar Baharuddin, Baling division deputy chief Datuk Zainol Md Isa, Selayang division information chief Rahmat Abdullah, Muar division chief contestant Datuk Abdullah Omar and Bagan Serai division deputy chief contestant Zaki Din.

In announcing the findings, board chairman Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen Ismail said the decision will be submitted to the party's supreme council for endorsement.