

# ***Suspension stays, says Dr M***

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SUBANG JAYA: The decision by the Umno disciplinary board to suspend six division leaders for money politics stays and will be endorsed by the supreme council, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said although the six have the right to appeal, the council would uphold the board's decision.

"We asked the board to make a recommendation and it has found them guilty. The council will support the deci-

sion," he said after launching the Dinosaurs Alive exhibition here yesterday.

He said although the decision would restrict their "political movement," it had to be taken immediately in the interest of Umno.

"The decision may lessen support for the party, but we are in the process of cleaning up the party and showing members that money politics has no place in the party," he added.

He said he wanted the coun-

try to be ruled only by those who were clean and not involved in money politics.

On Saturday, the board, chaired by Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen, found six Umno members, including three division chiefs, guilty of, among others, providing free trips, throwing parties and giving money.

The six are Gopeng division chief Mustafa Kamal Mohd Nawawi, Muar chief Datuk Abdullah Omar, Baling chief Datuk Zainol Mat Isa, Tuan Zaki

Din (Bagan Serai deputy chief candidate) Mohd Annuar Baharudin (Gopeng information chief) and Rahmat Abdullah (Selayang information chief).

Dr Mahathir said the disciplinary action only covered their political position and not state Umno posts.

Zainol is also Kedah Agriculture, Rural Development and Community Development Committee chairman.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the six could appeal to the su-

preme council.

He said Umno was serious about ridding the party of political wrongdoing, adding that all members should accept the decision of the board, which he said was free and independent.

"The decision was based on their own views and findings. The results were not influenced by any party.

"Umno members should also heed party leaders advice not to be involved in unethical practices," Najib said.