

# TOUGH NEW MOVE

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## Umno bars division heads from having govt contracts

By SA'ODAH ELIAS and FARID JAMALUDDIN

**KUALA LUMPUR:** In yet another move to check money politics in Umno, all its division heads have been barred from having business dealings with any government agency with immediate effect.

All of them have also been directed to declare their assets to the party.

The new ruling will also apply to all members planning to stand for all party posts.

Announcing this yesterday, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said all government agencies would be informed of the decision and must abide strictly by it.

"This does not mean that division heads cannot be involved in business, only that they will no

longer be allowed to do business with the government in whatever capacity.

"For those who already have established businesses which have dealings with the government, they have to choose whether to continue with their businesses or be division heads, in which case they can no longer get any contracts from the government," he told reporters after chairing a four-hour supreme

council meeting.

The Prime Minister said the council also endorsed the disciplinary board's decision which had found six division leaders guilty of breaching party ethics including being involved in money politics in last month's division elections.

The council, he said, upheld all punishments meted out by the board to the six.

Those found guilty by the board

are Gopeng division head Mustafa Kamal Mohd Nawi, Baling division head and Kedah state exco Datuk Zainol Mohd Esa and Muar division head Datuk Abdullah Omar.

The other three are Gopeng division information chief Mohd Annuar Baharuddin, a candidate for Bagan Seri deputy division head

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## Losers to get vacated posts

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post Zaki Din and Selayang information chief Rahmat Abdullah.

Dr Mahathir said the council also decided that the appeal made by those found guilty should be reviewed by the board chaired by Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithauddeen.

He said vacated division posts would be filled by the candidates who lost during the election and, if there were more than one, the candidate who received the next highest votes would be declared the winner.

"In respect of those with government posts, any decision on their positions will reflect the board of discipline's findings. This means that all state governments under Umno must follow its decision," he added.

Dr Mahathir also confirmed that more division leaders were being investigated for their involvement in money politics.