

PM: Setting up of appeal board will be discussed

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UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the proposal to set up an appeal board will be discussed in the first supreme council meeting to be held after the general assembly.

Disciplinary board chairman Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen had proposed the setting up the board, he said.

Dr Mahathir said details were not available now as the matter needed to be studied.

"At this moment, we do not know the set-up of the board," he told a Press conference at the conclusion of Umno general assembly.

Earlier, in his winding-up speech, deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the supreme council would consider the proposal as the party was aware that there were dissatisfaction among the Umno leaders found guilty by the disciplinary board for being involved in money politics.

"We want to be fair in our ac-

tions against those involved in money politics.

"We are sad that money politics exists in the party," he said, but stressed that action was only taken after the board weighed the evidence.

"We did not take action secretly or act to penalise any quarter. That was why we set up an independent disciplinary board."

He said he had heard in the past of people making assumptions that decisions made by the party's management committee sided certain quarters.

"The party president had repeatedly urged, appealed and cried to ask members not to indulge in money politics."

Meanwhile, Tengku Rithauddeen said the proposed appeal board would provide an avenue for the aggrieved party to submit their case. "Even courts provide avenues for appeal. It is good for Umno to have one too."