

Another Umno supreme council member quizzed

Nst 19 JUL 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Another Umno supreme council member is among several officials called up by the party's disciplinary board to answer allegations of money politics during the party's divisional elections last April.

It is learnt the supreme council member has been asked to explain why action should not be taken against him or her.

Prior to that, the member had been given a show-cause letter on the allegation and had been asked to provide evidence to deny it.

It is learnt the person holds a post in a division but it is not certain whether he or she is a division head.

Several other party members have also been called to face the board. They include division heads, those who failed to be elected as the division heads and also some Youth executive council members.

So far the disciplinary board has suspended 12 officials including five division heads and also reprimanded nine others including two supreme council members.

The two are **Kulim/Bandar Baru** Youth head Azimi Daim, who is also Youth information head and Tasek Gelugor head Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar, who is also the Deputy Agriculture Minister.

Fifty-four others were also investigated but they were found not guilty by the board. Among them was supreme council member and Deputy Transport Minister Tan Sri

Ramli Ngah Talib.

It is learnt a decision on the matter would most likely be reached by early next month and announced in mid-August.

This is because its chairman Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen Tengku Ismail is still abroad.

The board will be visiting Sabah next week to listen to some 20 cases, including those involving division heads and their deputies.

It is learnt the board had also received appeals from those who have already been issued warning letters or suspended.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said the supreme council would not look into the appeals submitted by those found guilty.

At the party's 55th general assembly last month, however, Dr Mahathir said the party was studying Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen's proposal to set up an appeals board which he said would be discussed at the supreme council meeting.

On the outcome of investigation involving Kuantan division head Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman, it is learnt all witnesses have been interviewed and the board is in the process of deliberating the result.

The outcome is expected to be submitted to the Umno supreme council next week.

Fauzi had alleged money politics was practised at Kuantan division's branch meeting in March.