

# Umno going on membership drive

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. Umno supreme council members have been directed by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mhamad to go on a five-month membership drive from Wednesday.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today Dr Mahathir gave the directive at last Friday's supreme council meeting.

He said each member was tasked with overseeing up to five divisions and each division had to boost its membership by at least 10 per cent.

This means the 2.9 million-strong Umno is targeting an estimated 290,000 new members between Au-

gust and December.

"The move is to bolster the party's clout.

"A larger membership will strengthen Umno," said Najib, who is also chairman of the party's membership recruitment committee and Defence Minister.

To make membership easier, application forms have been simplified and branches empowered to approve applications.

"Additionally, aspiring members unable to obtain membership through their branches can apply directly to the divisions or party headquarters but the latter will

issue the membership numbers," Najib said.

He said this after witnessing the signing of an agreement between HW Lima Sdn Bhd and five of its sponsors at Nikko Hotel, for the maritime component of the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace exhibition.

Umno membership is open to Bumiputeras and other eligible individuals who are above 18.

Najib said the council members would collectively submit the application forms for new members to Dr Mahathir at the end of the recruitment drive.