

27 JULY 2001

Abdullah-Secretariat

APPEAL AGAINST DISCIPLINARY ACTION TO BE HEARD BY INDEPENDENT BODY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27 (Bernama) -- An independent secretariat will be established to look into appeals from Umno members who have had discipline action taken against them by the Umno Discipline Board, said Deputy Umno President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The secretariat would evaluate and consider the cases received and if there is basis for appeal it would forward the matter to the Supreme Council for final decision, he said.

"In this matter, the Supreme Council will function as a board of appeal for discipline cases," he told reporters after attending the Umno Supreme Council meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the party's headquarters here today.

Abdullah said the secretariat would be headed by a member of the party's discipline board, Datuk Mohamad Zuki Kamaluddin while members would be appointed later.

"Datuk Zuki has been informed of his appointment," he added.

He also said Mohamad Zuki would submit names to the Supreme Council for approval.

Asked as to when the secretariat would commence operations, he said, "The secretariat would like to start work as soon as possible, if possible, yesterday."

Abdullah, who is also chairman of the party's management committee, said the Supreme Council meeting also agreed not to accept any appeal from members on whom disciplinary action had been taken if the period had exceeded one month after the division delegates meeting.

"The cut-off point should be within a month after the division delegates meeting is held. This is because complaints are still coming in, after one month we will not receive and consider them," he added.

Following the division elections held last March, 15 members, including a Supreme Council member, and five divisional heads were found guilty of money politics.

Members found guilty of money politics were sacked from holding party position while their right to elect and to be elected to any party post was suspended for six years.

On Puteri Umno, Abdullah said the Supreme Council also decided that Puteri Umno's status would remain as a pro-tem committee until the end of the year before it is formally established.

Puteri Umno which is headed by its pro-tem chief Azalina Othman Said was formed in December last year and comprises of women members between the ages of 35 and 40.

-- BERNAMA

ZAI NZ DVS