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Mahathir-Appeal

DR M: SUPREME COUNCIL TO DISCUSS UMNO APPEALS BOARD FORMATION

KUALA LUMPUR, June 23 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council will discuss at its next meeting the proposal to set up an Appeals Board to hear appeals from members found guilty of an offence by the party's Disciplinary Board, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The board's membership would also be discussed at the meeting, he told a news conference at the end of the three-day 55th Umno General Assembly.

"The set-up of the board would be discussed at the next meeting," he said when asked to comment on the front-page report in Utusan Malaysia today on the proposal to set up the board.

Dr Mahathir said the proposal came from Umno Disciplinary Board chairman Tan Sri Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen.

Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his winding-up speech, also said that the proposal to set up the board would be discussed by the supreme council, the party's highest decision-making body, at its first meeting after the general assembly.

Meanwhile, party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Appeals Board was necessary as the Supreme Council had to hear too many appeals from members found guilty and taken action.

"We have provisions in the party constitution to provide an opportunity for members to appeal," he told reporters after the assembly.

He said the board's make-up and membership would be decided at the council's meeting.

The Disciplinary Board had stripped off 12 party leaders of their divisional posts, including five division chiefs for breaching party ethics such as involving in money politics in the divisional elections in April and May.

Nine others were given warning by the board.

-- BERNAMA

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