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Fewer speakers to debate motions

UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night that fewer speakers would take part in debating two motions at the party general assembly beginning today.

He said except for the debate on the motion of thanks on the presidential address, only eight speakers each, including the proposer and seconder, would be allowed to debate on education, economy and religion.

This departure from past practices, he said, was to allow representatives more time to debate on the motions.

"We have decided to combine education and economy as one motion and religion as the other," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Asked whether he had received feedback on the Wanita and Youth assemblies, Dr Mahathir said: "We have, and are satisfied with the proceedings. There was not much problem."

"However, Youth representatives who would speak at the general assembly were chosen by the Youth delegates yesterday, while Wanita will have five representatives appointed by the delegates and another five by its exco."

Asked if the Government would bear the legal cost for withdrawing the case against United Nations rapporteur Param Cumaraswamy, he said: "We will consult the lawyers."

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