

# PM: Let BN decide if action is adequate

SUN 21 DEC 2002

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Barisan Nasional will determine whether the suspension of two MCA state assemblymen is adequate disciplinary action.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the final decision on the matter, including whether they will be asked to vacate their seats, rests with the BN supreme council which is expected to meet next month.

"Although action on members of a component party is the responsibility of the party concerned, these members

are representatives of BN. Therefore, BN must play a role in determining whether the suspension is adequate or not."

The prime minister said this after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting which discussed at length the suspension of Lim Boo Chang (Datuk Keramat) and Tan Cheng Liang (Jawi).

Lim and Tan were suspended by the MCA on Monday for not voting against the DAP motion to postpone the Penang Outer Ring Road project at the Penang state assembly on Nov 21.

Mahathir said Umno has also received new information

on the case and will refer them to the BN. He, however, declined to elaborate.

He said Umno does not want the information to be discussed widely as it would influence BN's stand on the issue, adding that Umno views the matter seriously.

On Umno's stand, he said it is slightly different from what was announced earlier.

However, Mahathir said it is a BN matter and Umno will adhere to what it decides.

He said Umno had earlier wanted the two assemblymen sacked for not voting with the rest of the BN representatives.

On whether the Umno

supreme council is satisfied with the suspension, he said the council has considered the matter and felt that it should be referred to BN.

Asked whether the BN supreme council meeting will treat the case as an urgent matter, he said: "It is a matter of principle."

On another matter, he said Umno wants the United Nations Security Council to retract all mentions on alleged links between BN and the Al Qaeda terrorist group in its reports.

He said the matter is to be discussed by the government when asked if a protest note will be issued.