

25/06/2002

Council must signal that everything is well

Shamsul Akmar

A CLEAR and strong message from today's meeting of the Umno supreme council should clear the air over the ongoing event following Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement to resign from all his party posts, and his subsequent withdrawal of the decision.

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will chair the meeting which will listen to the report by the party's management committee members who met the party president at Seri Perdana on Sunday just before he left for Naples, Italy on a holiday.

While the content of the report is not immediately known, one can expect the supreme council members to be all ears.

It is important that the supreme council members take heed of the report and endorse it without much debate.

The quick endorsement by the council members will send a clear signal that Umno, the lynchpin in the ruling national coalition, is well-placed to deal with the situation.

An endorsement can be counted upon by members who wish to see an immediate return to stability which the party has been known to provide for decades.

Umno, the BN and the nation can ill-afford a prolonged situation following the weekend's event.

Once Umno has the endorsement, the BN should follow suit without much ado.

After the Umno supreme council meeting, Abdullah is scheduled to go live to announce the decision.

Just as the nation watched the emotional scene on Saturday at the Merdeka Hall of the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, where the 56th Umno general assembly was held, Abdullah's announcement will command similar attention.

The nation should deflect all the speculations and reflect on the entire episode in a very decisive manner.

With the endorsement from Umno and the BN, the country can then go on with "business as usual".

Many cried when Dr Mahathir announced his resignation on Saturday.

On that score, Dr Mahathir received one of the greatest tributes in his life.

Today, whatever the announcement may be, the nation must be firm to accept it.

That will be the greatest tribute to him.

\* shamsulmk@nstp.com.my

(END)