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UMNO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE WORKS OUT COMPROMISE WITH PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 24 (Bernama) -- The UMNO management committee has worked out a compromise with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said international trade and industry minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today.

The management committee members met Dr Mahathir at Putrajaya yesterday morning prior to his leaving for Europe for a break.

"Suffice for me to say that a compromise has been struck between the prime minister and the (UMNO) management committee that we balance his intentions to retire and help the party as an ordinary member from the grassroots level and that of ours and the rakyat that he remain as the party president and prime minister."

Rafidah said Dr Mahathir would not leave the party but would work hard for the party and government. He has also expressed his intention to travel round the country to build up the people's confidence in UMNO.

"There is give and take on both sides and a compromise has been struck. This will be brought to the UMNO Supreme Council meeting tomorrow."

She said the UMNO Supreme Council would debate on the merits of the compromise on whether to accept it or not.

Rafidah said it would be inappropriate for her to announce the details of the compromise before the Supreme Council had debated on the matter.

The UMNO management committee members who met Dr Mahathir yesterday were deputy prime minister and UMNO deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Rafidah, UMNO vice presidents Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, UMNO secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and UMNO Youth chief Datuk Hishamuddin Hussein. --

-- BERNAMA

SM SHY AAM