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Mahathir-Discipline

UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL UPHOLDS DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON 10 MEMBERS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 9 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council (MT) has upheld the punishment that the Disciplinary Board imposed on 10 party members found guilty of breaching regulations in division elections last year.

This was decided at a special MT meeting chaired by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Umno headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

Dr Mahathir said the 10 were among 27 party members who had appealed to the Appeals Secretariat after being found guilty by the Board.

Seven members have had their sentences cancelled while the punishment for the remaining 10 had been reduced, Dr Mahathir said.

"I do not wish to give the names of these people," he told a press conference after the two-hour meeting.

He said those guilty had to relinquish all posts they held in the party and also all government posts like in the state Exco.

Dr Mahathir said: "Although they were tried on a particular case, for example, the contest for division chief, and were found guilty, but prior to that they had contested the Youth chief or MT post but there were no allegations against them, we feel that all political posts held in the party by those found guilty are bound by the sentence imposed."

However, those found guilty need not give up corporate posts like company chairman, he said.

Among the punishment meted out by the Board on the errant members was stripping them of their right to vote and barring them from being elected or appointed to any post in the party for three or six years.

However, Dr Mahathir did not explain on what was meant by a reduction of sentence.

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The seven whose 'sentence' was cancelled had earlier been given a warning by the Board.

Dr Mahathir said the Appeals Secretariat, on studying the appeals, found that the case against the seven was rather light.

"We find that even the warning was an unnecessary form of sentence as they are actually not guilty," he said.

He said the MT unanimously agreed with the approach and principles adopted by the Secretariat and endorsed all its decisions.

Dr Mahathir also said the MT decided that the movements in Umno -- Umno Youth, Wanita Umno and Puteri Umno -- are three different entities.

As such, party members could not join more than one of these movements,

he said.

"Whoever is a member of Wanita or Puteri cannot be a member of Youth. Youth cannot be members of Wanita or Puteri and Puteri cannot be members of Wanita," he said.

Dr Mahathir said they can only contest posts in their own movements.

"They are also eligible to contest posts in Umno, such as division chief and posts at the branch level, in fact, even the Supreme Council," he said.

On the coming Ketari state by-election, Dr Mahathir said Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob had been picked as the Barisan Nasional (BN) election director. Adnan is the Pahang BN chairman.

The Ketari seat fell vacant following the death of its assemblyman Datuk Loke Koon Kam of the BN on March 3. The Election Commission has yet to fix the date for the by-election.

-- BERNAMA

MAM MUN MFJ YBY