

Mahathir: Umno members involved

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad revealed that some Umno members are involved in the Federal Special Forces of Malaysia.

However, the party has yet to decide what action, if any, to take against them as investigation is still going on and its links with militant groups are yet to be ascertained.

"We believe there are Umno members involved (in FSFM) because they were also taken in by the exciting offers such as promotion, positions, medals and all.

"Not many, but there are Umno members involved. Other party members also are not spared," he said after chairing the party supreme council meeting.

(A city police spokesman said that an Umno Youth vice-head surrendered yesterday for being a member of FSFM. He is believed to be a "colonel" and the second in command at state level).

Mahathir said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi briefed the council about FSFM and the council supported the government's action.

He said party members who joined FSFM were probably cheated into joining. "But, if they were aware of the intention (of FSFM) and still joined it, we need to think of some kind of action."

To Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang's call for a white paper on FSFM, he said: "At this moment, we have yet to decide (on it).

"We have yet to ascertain the nature of this body, whether or not they are militant."

In another development, Abdullah said in line with the redelineation of electoral boundary exercise, all divisional committees will be dissolved and replaced with pro tern committees until the next party elections.

He said all 25 new and old divisions, including the Youth, Wanita and Puteri wings, will be dissolved, whether they are involved in the redelineation or not.

He said pro tern office bearers can be appointed from existing committee members.

He also said states can make suggestions but it is up to the central level to decide on the appointments.