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Mahathir-Chairman

SUPREME COUNCIL PROPOSES TO APPOINT ASSISTANT PERMANENT CHAIRMAN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council has proposed that an assistant permanent chairman be appointed tomorrow to assist the Deputy Permanent Chairman Datuk Seri Onn Ismail to manage the party's General Assembly, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister and Umno President said the suggestion was in line with the provision that provides for the appointment of a temporary replacement in the event that the permanent chairman or his deputy was unable to chair the assembly.

"If the deputy permanent chairman chairs the meeting, he must have a replacement," he told reporters after chairing the meeting.

He said this when commenting on the supreme council meeting tonight where Onn took over the place of Permanent Chairman Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah, who would not be attending the assembly which starts tomorrow as he was suffering from leukaemia.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council had decided to appoint Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker Datuk Muhammad Abdullah as the temporary assistant permanent chairman.

"We've proposed Datuk Muhammad Abdullah from Pahang. This will be approved by the secretary-general tomorrow," he said.

Commenting on today's meeting, Dr Mahathir said the supreme council heard reports from its members who attended the Youth, Wanita and Puteri Umno assemblies and considered the motions to be debated.

He said all of them gave favourable reports and they were impressed with the spirit shown by the delegates.

"All the delegates did not leave their seats at all throughout the meetings and made constructive and spirited speeches, reflecting their strong determination. It's extraordinary this year compared to previous years," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this year supreme council members would also debate the motion on the president's policy speech.

"There's a slight change in the debate on the presidential address as state Umno liaison chiefs, who are also supreme council members, will also take part," he said.

Previously, the supreme council members only replied to points raised during the debate, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the motion on economy would be tabled by Wanita Umno representative and seconded by a Kelantan representative, while the motion on education and religion would be moved by a delegate from Johor and seconded by a Selangor Umno representative.

-- BERNAMA

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