

31 JUL 2003

Mahathir-Election

UMNO DIVISIONS AND BRANCHES DIRECTED TO GET READY FOR GENERAL ELECTION

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- The Umno supreme council today directed all the party's divisions and branches to get ready for the next general election.

The prime minister said that they should hold dry runs and wet runs as part of the preparations.

"We have decided that Umno should make preparations for the election and the divisions and branches must hold dry runs and wet runs to enable the Umno workers to perform their duties smoothly (during the election)," he said after chairing the supreme council meeting at the Umno headquarters at Menara Dato' Onn here which lasted two-and-a-half hours.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the supreme council also agreed that all potential candidates from the party should officially declare their assets before the election.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also stressed the importance of having a good relationship between Umno and the administration.

"The administrators play a big role in implementing all policies between the government and Umno. We must also listen to the opinions of the officers," he said.

He said the supreme council also supported the government's decision to reject the use of the short messaging service by Muslims to divorce their spouse.

It also officially recorded its appreciation to former Umno permanent chairman Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah who died of leukaemia on July 5.

-- BERNAMA

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