

14/10/2003

Dr M to deliver important message

M.K. Megan

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to deliver an important message at the Umno supreme council meeting, which he will chair for the last time on Oct 30.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister is expected to break fast and perform prayers with his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the party's supreme council members and guests.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said it was up to Dr Mahathir, as Umno president, to decide the contents of his message.

"We know the supreme council meeting will be a normal one. I don't know if any member has any suggestions," he said.

"Since it will be during the fasting month, we will break fast and pray together. We will also be inviting many others."

Khalil was speaking to reporters after representing Abdullah at the opening of the two-day International Conference on "The Ummah at the crossroads: The Role of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference" at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

On the matter of the pro-tem committees for Umno's Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings at all 190 divisions (including the 25 new divisions), he said the working committee chaired by Abdullah had met all the State liaison committees except Penang, due to the floods.

The meetings with the State liaison committees were to discuss the lists of pro-tem committee members they had submitted.

Khalil said the working committee would hold at least two more meetings before submitting the lists to the supreme council for a final decision.

Asked about the number of new faces in the pro-tem committees, Khalil said it was up to the supreme council to decide.

At the Umno supreme council meeting on July 31, it was decided that at all the divisions, the Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings were to be manned by pro-tem committees until party elections next year.

The 25 new divisions were created in the Election Commission's redelineation exercise.