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Muhamad to be appointed assistant to deputy chairman

UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the supreme council had proposed the appointment of Dewan Rakyat deputy Speaker Datuk Muhamad Abdullah as assistant to the deputy permanent chairman.

The move was necessary as permanent chairman Tan Sri Sulaiman Ninam Shah had been taken ill and could not attend the assembly.

"This will be done before the start of the assembly tomorrow.

"It will only be for the duration of this meeting."

Dr Mahathir said the assembly would also see a departure from the norm as the State liaison chiefs and heads of the party's three wings would debate the presidential address.

As most of the liaison heads were also council members, Dr Mahathir said it would mark the first time they were participating in the debate.

In previous years, council members were tasked to wind up points raised by delegates.

On the resolutions on economy and education, Dr Mahathir advised speakers to adhere to the time allotted to them to enable all States to take part.