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Umno supreme council may discuss proposal to postpone assembly

KEPALA BATAS, Sun. - A suggestion that the Umno annual general assembly, scheduled to be held in June, be postponed to October is likely to be discussed by the supreme council at its next meeting.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said the suggestion was likely to be on the agenda for discussion at the management level as he felt that certain quarters were bound to raise the issue.

"But I cannot answer yet as the supreme council has not met," he said on the likelihood of the assembly being postponed to October.

The suggestion that the assembly be held immediately after the Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in October is actively being promoted to make it the last important function to be attended by outgoing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Khalil, who is Information Minister, was speaking to reporters after officiating at the joint opening of delegates meetings of Umno branches in the Kepala Batas division at the Dewan Millennium today.

He was representing Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also Kepala Batas Umno division chief.

Earlier, Khalil said a resounding victory in the next general election was very crucial for Barisan Nasional as it would represent a strong mandate for Abdullah who would be leading the coalition.

He urged Umno members in the Kepala Batas division, being Abdullah's own, to work hard and ensure that it is a model party division.