

We don't need cliques in Front: Mahathir

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JOHORE BARU, Tues. — Umno Deputy President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told National Front members not to have any "cliques" within the Front.

Cliques would only bring disunity and weaken the Front, he said at a dialogue session with members of the National Front last night at the Tasek Utara Golf Club here.

He also advised them to leave important matters pertaining to the Front to its leaders at headquarters.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir added that establishing cliques would be of no benefit.

Instead, it would give rise to conflicts between component parties of the Front.

The Deputy Prime Minister also urged members to follow the directives of the National Front leadership which was capable of solving party matters.

Referring in particular to requests for more seats by component parties of the Front and individual party members, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said not all requests could be met.

Total victory

In fact, requests for more seats than allocated would only strain the relationship between the various component parties within the Front.

He added that although not giving a seat to an individual might hurt his pride, the decision might benefit the National Front and the country more.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the strength of the National Front in Johore should be an example to other states.

Although the Front had won in all the other states in the last election, the victory had been much more difficult than in Johore.

In Johore, victory was overwhelming with many seats being returned unopposed or won by very large majorities, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir added.

Among those who attended the closed-door dialogue session last night were Mentri Besar Tan Sri Haji Othman Saat, State MCA chairman, Datuk Teo Ah Kiang and PPP president Senator S.I. Rajah.

This morning, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datin Dr Siti Asmah left for Kuala Lumpur after a three-day visit.