

Malay unity vital to progress, says Dr M

N.S.T. 11 Nov 1980

By NAZAR ABDUL SUNGAI PATANI, Sunday

MALAY unity is vital to ensure continued peace and progress in the country, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Disunity among the Malays will only affect the government's efforts in bringing progress and prosperity to all the people," he said when opening an administrative course organised by the Kuala Muda Umno division.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malay unity through Umno would create a favourable situation in implementing various development projects for the people.

Umno as a backbone of the government should not be weak if development projects were to be implemented successfully, he said.

"If the government is weak, there will be no progress in the country because there will be problems and disunity among the peoples of various races," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister reminded the Malays that a certain group of people was out to create disunity among them to weaken the government and create chaos

in the country.

"They know that if there is disunity among the Malays, they will be able to achieve their objective easily," he said.

He warned that this group was using various ways and means to create disunity among the Malays.

Most of them, he said, used Islam, the Quran and the Hadith (a holy book) to win Muslims over to their struggle.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said such people were willing to resort to violence once they came under the influence of the group's leaders.

They would also ignore the true teachings of Islam just to achieve their objectives, he added.

He said the dakwah movement was a common issue exploited by this group to make the people follow their deviant teachings for political ends.

Procession

However, Muslims could curb deviant dakwah movements by in-

creasing their knowledge of Islam and reporting to the authorities any deviant dakwah movements in their areas.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said there should be efficient administration at all levels in Umno.

"This is important to ensure the party can carry out its projects successfully," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Asmah, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Nahar Shahabuddin and the MP for Kuala Muda, Encik Mohamed Khir Johari, was given a rousing welcome on arrival.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, Datin Seri Dr Siti Asmah, Datuk Seri Syed Nahar and Encik Khir were driven in a specially decorated Land Rover during the half-mile long procession, in which over 1,000 people representing youth organisations, school bands, silat groups and members of National Front component parties took part, through the town.