

# MBs pledge cooperation in land matters

By OUR REPORTER

UMNO's menteri besar and chief ministers have pledged to cooperate with federal government to speed up land-related administration to facilitate development projects.

The state leaders promised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that approvals for alienations, conversion and subdivision of land for projects would not be delayed.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said on Monday night quite often projects such as housing could not be completed on time because of snags in state and federal government relations.

"Even we could settle the problem at federal level, but could not get cooperation of state governments, the matter could not be resolved," Dr Mahathir told the Press after chairing a four-hour meeting of Umno Supreme Council, the party's top policy-making body.

Land administration is

a matter of state policy. Attempts by federal government to expedite land administration by issuing directives to relevant authorities had not been very successful.

The council's meeting, which dragged until midnight, also discussed political and economic matters which could have some bearing on the next general election.

However, the Umno president noted that the date of the election was difficult to determine as the turn of some political events have been rather negative lately.

Citing Sabah as an example, he said: "We are not even sure who is the chief minister as there is a wrangle going on. In other states at least we know who are the menteri besar and chief ministers."

He declined to comment on the MCA issue saying that Umno would not interfere in the internal affairs of its Barisan Nasional component parties.