

# No differences among BN members: PM

STAR 6 JUN 1986

By KALIMULLAH  
HASSAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The Barisan Nasional is united and there is no difference of opinion amongst its members, chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister said recent reports and statements which depicted a split in the coalition were the result of "misunderstandings."

"We are united in facing any political situation and have agreed to stand together and contest (the general election) as Barisan Nasional component parties," he told reporters after chairing a two-hour Barisan Supreme Council meeting here.

Dr Mahathir said there was no question of any party contesting using its own symbol as "the matter was not discussed at all."

Gerakan president Datuk Dr Lim Keng Yaik had said last week that the party might contest the coming election under its own symbol if it did not get "a fair allocation of seats."

He subsequently also said the Gerakan had no fight with other component parties but would contest against the MCA in 20 seats in Penang.

Dr Mahathir was also quoted as saying that the Gerakan could contest on

its own if it wanted to.

Today, the Prime Minister said he was not serious when he made the statement.

"This is all a misunderstanding. I never made any statement to the Press but was answering a question from an Umno member after breaking fast."

Dr Mahathir said the meeting discussed the statements made by him and other component parties including the fight for seats and threats to contest outside the Barisan.

"Dr Lim made some statements but never threatened to leave the Barisan. I met him this afternoon and he explained everything."

"I am satisfied with the explanation and am sure that the Gerakan does not intend to leave the Barisan," he said.

Immediately after the Barisan meeting, Dr Lim and several top party leaders went to the party headquarters.

They emerged three hours later but Dr Lim said there was no meeting. "We are friends and we wanted to talk, so we talked," he told reporters.

Others present included party deputy president Datuk Paul Leong, secretary-general Kerk Choo Ting, vice-presidents Soh Siew Hoong and Yap Chee Meang.

The party CWC also met this morning.