

These 12 out to destroy Umno: Mahathir

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By KHÄIRUDDIN HASSAN

ALOR GAJAH, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today said the 12 Umno members who have taken the party to court with allegations that the last general assembly was not valid are out to destroy the party.

He said that while it was their right to go to court, they could have tried to overcome their problems through provisions provided under the party constitution.

"By going to court, they have robbed the party supreme council of the power to decide the fate of the party and given it to the courts.

"Now it is the courts which will decide who should lead the party while the Umno members themselves have been rendered redundant," he said while opening the Alor Gajah Umno division building here this afternoon.

He said that if the 12 members had harboured any spirit of Umno and love of the party, they would have tried to use the provisions in the party's constitution to resolve their problems.

Party weakened

"Unfortunately, they have chosen to ignore the Umno constitution, supreme council and other Umno leaders because it is their intention to destroy the party.

"I feel sad because they (the 12) do not show any party spirit. All they want is to see their demands fulfilled even though the party would be weakened and rendered powerless in the process."

He said that this was the result of admitting people who did not have the Umno spirit into the party.

"I fear if we do not give due attention to this, Umno will become weak or even crippled and eventually will not be able to even rule the country."

He said that as a political party, Umno struggled to protect the interests of its members and the people in the country.

"But most of our members seem to have ignored this responsibility.

"For instance, we should have closed ranks and worked for the party after we chose our leaders in the last general assembly and party elections."

Instead, he said, certain quarters were trying to create two Umnos, one supported by 49 per cent of the members and the other, 51 per cent of the members.

These people, the Prime Minister added, did not take into consideration the interests of the party.