

# Meetings with Umno chiefs to unite factions

# P.M. IN DRIVE FOR UNITY

## Dr M gets warm welcome

PENANG, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given a warm welcome when he arrived at the Bayan Lepas International Airport this evening to begin a three-day visit to Penang.

Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Finance Minister Senator Farid Ariffin and Umno vice-president Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi were among the thousands at the airport to welcome the Prime Minister who was accompanied by his wife Dr Siti Hasmah Ali.

During his stay, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir will hold discussions with State Umno and other Barisan Nasional leaders as well as perform the ground-breaking ceremony for the "cluster" housing project in Seberang Jaya, Butterworth. — Bernama

By NOR HAWA YUNUS

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he was meeting State Umno leaders in a bid to forge greater unity among members.**

He said he was visiting all States and meeting Umno leaders for talks on bringing the different factions together.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said, however, that he preferred to talk about the matter in closed-door discussions with Umno leaders because he could talk more freely then.

Public discussion of the issue would only lead to numerous interpretations.

"If I make a public statement, people will criticise ... there will be various opposing viewpoints."

He was speaking to reporters af-

ter launching a neighbourhood signboard campaign in Cheras here.

Dr Mahathir was responding to a question on how he hoped to bring the two Umno factions together.

Asked whether he would accommodate leaders from the other faction, he said:

"Don't ask ...if you ask, that will be the end of the story."

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he needed the united support of all

### CLOSE RANKS, DR M URGES UMNO: P3

Umno members to achieve the party's objectives.

"If half (the members) support me and the other half supports others, then it is a bit difficult."

In *Alor Star*, former Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman said he fully backed the call by Dr Mahathir to party members to close ranks and unite.

The Tunku said it was dangerous for Umno to be divided into Team A and Team B because this could breed hatred in the team

which loses to the other in party elections.

"Dr Mahathir's call was a wise move."

The Tunku was addressing guests at the *Malam Senandung Mesra* organised by Kota Star Wanita Umno here last night in conjunction with the National Day celebrations.

He suggested that Dr Mahathir hold discussions with Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Datuk Musa Hitam and certain other Umno members to regain their co-operation to ensure the party's strength.

"I fear that Umno might be destroyed unless all party members re-unite and I pray that the reunification will take place speedily," he added. The Tunku urged all Umno members to help ensure that the reunification takes place.

The Tunku also called on Malaysians of different racial origins to be loyal to the country.

He said the country had undergone tremendous development after independence and the Malaysians of today were able to enjoy the benefits that development had brought.