

# 'Umno needs help of members at all levels'

# UNITY DRIVE GOING WELL, SAYS Dr M

By ZAINON AHMAD

NSunT 4 OCT 1987

**KOTA BARU, Sat. —** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the effort to strengthen Umno was meeting with success as more people were rallying to the call.

His visit to Kelantan was proving fruitful as more members understood the problem and were helping to make the party stronger.

Umno needed every able and capable person to ensure the successful implementation of all the party's programmes and to plan for the future, he said at a Press conference at the end of his two-day visit to this State.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Yaacob and Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid.

He said there was no problem with party unity at the grassroots but the party needed the help of all members and at all levels.

Asked whether he needed the help of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to strengthen the party, Dr Mahathir said the party needed the help of all members.

The Umno president did not think that the former Trade and Industry Minister was a stumbling block to efforts to strengthen the party.

He was ready to meet him but like when he met Datuk Musa Hitam and Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, there must be no pre-conditions, he said.

To a question that Tengku Razaleigh, who is Gua Musang division leader, considered himself a nobody and that he would meet him only if invited, Dr Mahathir said, "But that's a condition."

When Datuk Musa came to see him, he was only a division leader and he came with no announcement to the Press.

## Special committee

"Why should there be conditions between us?"

When asked to comment further on Tengku Razaleigh's statement that he was ready to meet the Umno president provided he was invited, as meetings like the liaison committee meeting last night were not the proper forum for the two to discuss differences, he said:

"No comment. I am not going to debate this in the Press or in public. Things like this should be discussed quietly.

"I welcome his willingness to meet me. But why should it be my move or your move, or that the ball is in your court or my court. This is not football."

Asked whether as party president he should make the first move, he said: "That's an opinion."

Would his efforts to strengthen the party fail if he did not meet Tengku Razaleigh?

"It's not that I don't want to see him. I want to see him."

On whether Tengku Razaleigh meant inclusion of his people in Government when he said he wanted everybody to be involved in efforts to strengthen the party, Dr Mahathir said: "No comment."

When asked why there was the need to create a special committee when the liaison committees could have resolved the problem of the 12 members who challenged the validity of the April 12 Umno election, he said: "Because they were unsuccessful we decided to look for other means."