

No way we can revive old Umno, says Dr M

NST 24 JUN 1988

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. — There is no way the Government can revive the old Umno as that is beyond its jurisdiction, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said there had been an attempt by certain people to pressure the Government into reviving the old party but there was nothing that could be done.

"It is impossible to do so as the Government does not have the power to bring back to life something that has already died or has been declared illegal," he said.

The Prime Minister was addressing some 5,000 members of the village development and security committees at Stadium Negeri here this afternoon.

"The (new) party is still the same except for the word 'Baru'. But we hope the people will soon forget the word and remember Umno.

"Actually, the old Umno is no

longer in existence because it has been killed by the group of 11 who decided to settle Umno's problems through the court despite numerous attempts for an out-of-court settlement."

He said if they really loved Umno, they would have solved any dispute through the various committees in Umno.

Improved economy

"What is the point of having the supreme council and the disciplinary committee if we want to settle our problems in court?" he asked.

He said in the 1984 general assembly for example, about 5,000 out of 8,000 branches were found to be illegal.

Some had not held their annual general meetings while others had their members' subscriptions paid by the State Assemblymen.

"But because our priority is the party, we did not go to court. We do not want others to settle our problems.

"Now the same people who are responsible for making the party illegal are turning back and putting the blame on us."

He said this group had no respect for democracy which had brought a lot of development and progress to the people and country.

They should respect the wishes of the majority and accept defeat gracefully, he added.

The Prime Minister said the economic situation had improved considerably and more jobs were being created.

"Why are those who blamed us for the economic slowdown now deciding to remain quiet? They should say it's because of the Government that the economy has improved," he added.