

PM: STABILITY OF UMNO IMPORTANT

# We'll solve it

By ADLIN M. ZABRI

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the Government will leave no stone unturned in its effort to resolve the problems faced by Umno.

Addressing a gathering of more than 600 Barisan Nasional Members of Parliament, Senators and State Assemblymen at Parliament House in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said if need be, the Government will refer the matter to Parliament. He did not elaborate.

He added that only God's laws cannot be amended, but man made laws can be changed. Laws are made not to create problems but to make life easier for everybody, he added.

The gathering was organised by the Parliament Backbenchers Club to show support for the Prime Minister's leadership.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government will look into

every possible avenue to revive Umno. He refuted claims by certain quarters that the leadership had done nothing to resolve the problem since the court ruling on February 4 that Umno was an "unlawful society".

He added that it was just that the leadership had not gone round

publicising its efforts. "We could not do this because there were people out to destroy Umno and waiting only for the right time. These people will resort to all kinds of means and continue to try to turn Umno members against the leadership," he said.

The Prime Minister said the activities of the group could give an impression that there was political instability in the country. This

in turn could result in potential foreign investors being weary of investing in Malaysia. He added that this would adversely affect not only the Malays but also all Malaysians.

The Prime Minister regarded yesterday's gathering as an important indicator which will con-

vince the world, particularly investors, that the country's leadership continues to command the support of the majority of the people and the various component parties of the Barisan Nasional.

He said the Government could not reverse the court decision — declaring the party unlawful — but it could prove to the world the real situation, that there is political stability in the country.

The country's economic growth will depend largely on continued stability in the political arena. Investors must be convinced about this. He told the gathering that since independence 31 years ago, there has been political stability in the country, except in 1969 when it was "temporarily" affected.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government's efforts should be focused on economic development but this could not be done as there were other issues that required more immediate attention.

He stressed that the action of the few who refused to accept the decision of the majority had jeopardised stability in the country. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that his advise to party members not to contest certain posts in keeping with tradition was ignored. These few had rejected efforts to resolve the issue out of court which in turn led to the party being declared unlawful.

He also warned the people to be on guard regarding the effort of some who will undertake activities that could weaken the resolve and the party further by creating confusion.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the people knew that the stability of Umno is important to the country. The present difficulties are not just a problem faced by the Malays but by all communities in the country, he added.

Malaysia has been stable because of Umno — the largest party — supported and bolstered by the strength of its Barisan Nasional (BN) partners. He said he believes that although Umno is the focus of the current situation, the other BN component parties also feel the effects.

However, with support from the various quarters, he added, "we can still prove to the world that the present Government is still solid and strong."

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