

# Dr Mahathir:

## Why I did

## not cancel

## Registrar's

WST - 7 DEC 1988

## order

(10)  
KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Dewan Rakyat tonight that he did not revive the deregistered Umno in his capacity as Home Minister out of respect for the law.

The Prime Minister said he had the powers to do so as Home Minister under the Societies Act but had to take into cognizance the fact that the court had ruled the party as unlawful.

His explanation came when Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba was winding up debate on a motion by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (Independent-Gua Musang) to seek leave to table a Private Member's Bill to amend the Societies Act.

Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad (Independent-Johore Baru) had interrupted Encik Ghafar to ask why the Home Minister did not invoke Section 18 (f) to cancel the action of the Registrar of Societies in deregistering Umno.

He said he had made the suggestion in the House on March 18.

At this juncture Dr Mahathir sought permission from Deputy Speaker Datuk Haji Mohamed Amin Haji Daud to explain his decision not to invoke Section 18 (f).

The Prime Minister said even if a Minister has the power, it did not mean that he could do as he liked.

He said the Registrar deregistered Umno because of a court ruling and he had the right to do so under the law.

"If I issued a directive to the Registrar (to cancel his deregistration order), then (it meant) I do not respect the law."

He said the court ruling came about following the action filed by the group of 11 Umno members.

After Dr Mahathir sat down, Datuk Shahrir stood up to seek further clarification but Encik Ghafar said he did not want any more interference.