

Members directed to locate documents

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno members have been asked to look for any documents which may be evidence of their membership of the de-registered party.

The party leadership is gathering evidence to show proof that the 900,000 of its present 1.3 million members were also members of the de-registered party, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We have sent letters to the members requesting anything that can be proof

of their membership," he told reporters after the opening ceremony of the Umno assembly this morning.

He said proof of their membership in the former Umno was important.

Gathering of this evidence was hampered by the fact that many members did not keep the receipts of their membership fees. Some did not even keep their membership cards.

Dr Mahathir said even

the receipt stumps which should be kept at the party's branch offices were sometimes not kept.

On the problem of reclaiming the party's assets, he said the party wanted to get these fast because the interest on its loans was accumulating.

"The interest on the PWTC building alone is \$30 million a year," he said.

Despite this, he said DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang had accused the Government of bribing the Japanese.

"Why would we do that. Where do we have the money? That's why we borrowed from Bank Bumiputra," he said.

Asked why he brought up in his speech the court case where Umno was de-registered, Dr Mahathir said it was to enable members to learn from history.

"We cannot forget history. If we do, we will become careless," he added.

On a report that seven Semangat 46 leaders wanted to join Umno, he said he could not confirm this as he

was not aware of the matter.

"They did not come to see me," he said.

Responding to a question on a report that former Prime Minister and Semangat 46 adviser Tunku Abdul Rahman had said he attended the 40th anniversary celebrations of Wanita Umno on Wednesday for the publicity for Semangat 46, Dr Mahathir replied: "It is his (Tunku's) right to say anything he wants."