

TEAMING OF UMNO IN TWO STATES

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By Antonius Tang

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Kelantan Umno will team up with its Terengganu counterpart, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

All of Kelantan Umno's 13 divisions would be "adopted" by Terengganu's Umno liaison committees, the Prime Minister said.

He also said a joint Kelantan-Terengganu Umno committee would be set up to co-ordinate party activities between them.

At the same time, he said, the 13 party divisions in Kelantan would form "special relationships" with other state Umno committees.

The link-up comprises Bachok and Kuala Krai divisions with Johor; Pasir Puteh and Pengkalan Chepa with Terengganu;

Gua Musang-Negri Sembilan; Nilam Puri-Selangor; Tumpat-Kedah; Rantau Panjang-Perak; Kota Baru-Federal Territory; Kok Lanas-Pahang; Machang-Penang; Tanah Merah-Malacca and Pasir Mas-Perlis.

"This (link-up) will foster co-operation and facilitate party programmes between Kelantan and the other states," Dr Mahathir told a news conference at the state Umno building here after chairing his first meeting as head of the Kelantan liaison committee.

He said the committee also discussed the mass resignation of Semangat 46 leaders and members from the party.

"The question was whether Umno should accept them," he said.

"Umno is willing to accept anyone so long as he is a Malay who agrees

with the party policy and its struggle."

Dr Mahathir said former Semangat members should apply to join Umno through the branches and if there was any problem, then the supreme council would decide.

To a question, he said no special treatment or incentives would be given to these people. "All will go through the normal process. Umno has a place for everyone."

Dr Mahathir also said there might be changes to the state Umno committee, including changes in the post of the secretary. No decisions have been made yet.

So far, he had appointed only Haji Annuar Musa as Kelantan Umno deputy chief.

He and the other state party leaders later broke fast at Haji Annuar's residence in Bukit Marak.