

31/10/20-05MST

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SACK UMNO MEMBERS WHO USE DIRTY TACTICS, SAYS DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31¹⁹² (Bernama) -- UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said overzealous party members resorting to dirty means to secure position in UMNO should be sacked from the party.

+If these people employ dirty tricks to gain position, I hope the delegates will' reject them,+ he said commenting on rampant circulation now of poison-pen letters discrediting party leaders.

The Prime Minister believed such letters, which also did not spare him, had something to do with next year's party election including that of UMNO's top heirarchy.

Some of the letters had also_ reached him, Dr Mahathir told reporters after attending a three-hour closed door meeting with 1,200 divisional party leaders at the Putrajaya World Trade Centre.

+You can see the motives (of influencing party elections). This is because the letters suggest who should be removed and who should be elected,+ he said.-- more

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Mahathir-posts 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said he did not rule out the possibility of party members forming factions now as had happened on -the eve of party elections during the 1987 general assembly:

He said he was confident that UMNO members would not be easily taken in by the poison-pen letters as the party could not be easily split by selfish people.

Asked on the origin of the letters, Dr Mahathir said :+It may be the work of insiders or outsiders bent on splitting the party.+

+We don't know who write them. Although the letters run me down, it does'nt mean (deputy' president) Encik Ghafar is the writer.. . (they) want to smear the party leadership,+ he said,

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Minister, said the government wanted to take action but could not make out who the writers were.-- more

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Maha thir-posts 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

+If we don't know, we can't take action.. I don't know whether the police are tracking down those circulating the poison-pen letters or whether they are breaking the law,+ he said.

He said if they have committed an offence, then the police could act, otherwise the police have no role in the matter.-- Bernama

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