

welcomes Anwar's polls decision

By Nuraina Samad

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today welcomed the decision of vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim not to contest the deputy president post in the party's November election.

The Prime Minister said Anwar announced his decision at today's meeting of the Umno supreme council.

As for the post of president, he said as far as he knew, nobody had proposed to contest (against him).

However, Dr Mahathir said, there was still talk at the ground level that, although there would not be a contest (for the deputy president post), campaigns were still being carried out purportedly with his blessings.

He said this was not at all true as he had not given his blessing to anyone to contest any post.

"What has been agreed is that there will be contest at the vice-president level (and below)," he told a Press conference after chairing the meeting.

Dr Mahathir said there might be people who would say that this was undemocratic.

"But if we do not need to contest although we practise democracy in Umno, then we don't have to contest. We don't need to contest simply because we are democratic," he added.

Dr Mahathir said the democratic principle should be adhered to only for the good of the party, adding that in order to ensure party stability there would be no contest at the levels of president and deputy president.

He said there would not be any harm done if there was no contest for the two posts.

The Umno president said it was always difficult for him to say that nobody should challenge him (or his deputy Ghafar Baba).

Dr Mahathir said since Datuk Seri Anwar had made the announcement that he

PLEASE TURN TO
PAGE 2, COL 6

'Run ours of split spread by hostile elements'

12 JUN 1993

FROM PAGE ONE

would not contest, it would be a different matter if somebody else were to contest the deputy president post.

To a question on what would happen if the divisions continued to nominate their candidates despite the announcement that there would be no contest for the deputy presidency, Dr Mahathir said if they wanted to nominate, they could do so.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was now stable and described talks that the party was being split into two or three camps in view of the November election as the work of people who were not sympathetic towards Umno.

"They are happy if they see Umno in constant turbulence. Sometimes even reporters are happy if Umno is in turbulence because then they will have the news," he said.

Dr Mahathir quipped: "If we are quiet, very stable, very sane, with no madness, it will not be fun."

He drew attention to some newspaper reports he read about the recently-concluded UN-supervised elections in Cambodia in which the writer seemed to be disappointed because the elections were held peacefully and without people being killed.

"For him, there would be news only if there were killings. Therefore I hope that our newspapers will not count on that kind of excitement. We don't have that kind of excitement to offer.

"Umno is very rational. We do not go about grabbing power. Those who want to do so are already out of the party. And they are welcome to stay out."

Dr Mahathir said that the council had also decided that all branches must accept membership fees from all members and no member who had paid his or her fees should be prevented from taking part in the branch general assembly.

He said the only valid register of members was the one issued by party headquarters.