

# DON'T MEDDLE

## Mahathir tells outsiders to mind their own business

By WONG CHUN WAI and NIZAM ISA

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has warned outsiders against meddling in the country's politics, particularly the party elections.

He said as far as possible, the party did not want these people interfering in the Umno elections which was an internal matter.

"I don't care whether they are from within or outside the country because that's not important. Just mind your own business," he said after chairing the supreme council meeting yesterday (*more reports in Pages 2 and 3*)

Last Saturday Umno deputy president Abdul Ghafar Baba who is defending his post, had spoken of outsiders interfering in the country's politics and economy.

Ghafar alleged that the foreigners were trying to influence Umno members in their choice in the November polls.

Dr Mahathir also gave his advice to the 153 divisions which begin holding elections from Thursday.

The division meetings have been regarded as the most crucial of the campaign as they will also determine the nominations for the top party posts including whether to endorse Ghafar or vice-president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim for the No. 2 post.

On the meetings of the various levels so far, he said there had been few untoward incidents as the branch and division youth and wanita delegates' meetings had gone smoothly.

But he said campaigners should stop hurling accusations at candidates as it could tarnish the party's image.

"I advise them not to resort to dirty tactics but to carry out a clean and democratic campaign. We have to accept the results of a democratically-conducted contest," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council also discussed the continued circulation of poison-pen letters and derogatory caricatures.