

Work hard to strengthen Umno, Sabah heads told

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad advised Sabah Umno leaders to work hard to strengthen the party and prepare for the possibility of a State election.

The Prime Minister, who is also Umno president, also wanted them to set aside differences which might have arisen in the course of the on-going divisional elections and work together to strengthen the party.

This was the message conveyed by Dr Mahathir to 19 of the 20 Umno divisions in Sabah whose leaders met him today. The delegation was led by the Land and Co-operative Development Minister, Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai, who is Umno Sem-porna division head.

Speaking to reporters af-

ter the meeting, Sakaran said: "The Prime Minister wants us to strengthen the party at branch and divisional levels."

He said that throughout their meeting, Dr Mahathir emphasised the need for unity and co-operation.

"Dr Mahathir said divisional elections were normal and what was important was for us to pool our resources," he said.

The delegation also handed over a two-page memorandum in which the divisions stated their request that Abdul Ghafar Baba be removed as Sabah Umno liaison chief.

During the two-hour meeting, Sakaran said the delegates briefed the Prime Minister on the latest developments in Sabah.