

# Close ranks, Dr M tells members of Sabah Umno

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Sabah Umno to focus on party unity and prepare for the possibility of a snap election in the state, Sabah Umno liaison committee member Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai said.

He said the Umno president had also asked party members to resolve any problem that arose and close ranks after the divisional delegates meetings.

"Dr Mahathir had told us to re-unite and sincerely work towards strengthening the party as this is the only way to capture the state in the general election," he told reporters after leading a delegation from Sabah Umno to meet Dr Mahathir at his office yesterday.

Besides Sakaran, who is also Land and Co-opera-

tive Development Minister and Semporna Umno chief, all Sabah Umno division heads except Marudu Umno chief Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun, were present at the meeting.

Sakaran said Dr Mahathir was also briefed on the political situation in Sabah.

Asked whether the position of Sabah Umno chairman Abdul Ghafar Baba was raised at the meeting, Sakaran said: "The president (Dr Mahathir) advised us to leave the matter to him."

Another Sabah Umno liaison committee member, who declined to be named, said the delegation handed a note to Dr Mahathir to refute certain allegations that had been made against the state Umno.