

Be wary of rumours, PM tells Umno

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has told Umno members to avoid rumour-mongering which he said was a major cause of party disunity.

The Umno president said certain quarters in the community and the foreign press were jealous of the country's progress.

Referring to reports in the foreign media that certain high-ranking leaders in the party were no longer seeing eye-to-eye, he said:

"They wish to see Umno disintegrate because they know that Umno plays the most important role in the country.

"We can say that if there is a *U* Umno the

country will be in chaos, although we are not saying we are indispensable, but this is a fact," he said when opening a special programme for Umno Youth members at a hotel in Subang Jaya yesterday.

The Prime Minister said many quarters harboured ill-feelings towards Malaysia and they wanted Umno to be in constant discord.

Dr Mahathir said any conflict within Umno would weaken the party and retard the nation's development.

He reminded Umno Youth members that as future leaders, they should carry the torch of the party's original struggle.

He said they should not be too impatient to as-

sume high positions.

"The old will go when the time comes but most importantly, the transition of leadership should be made in a peaceful and calm manner.

"Anyone who is elected must close ranks within the party and the others must give their support in continuing with the party's struggle under his leadership," he said.

On democracy, Dr Mahathir said it could be destructive if not used properly as evident in some countries.

Comparatively, the democracy system had served the country well, he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was a need for youths to acquire moral values and culture through religion.