

# Dr M: Talk of Umno tussle untrue

By Farush Khan

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned Umno members against being influenced by rumours of a leadership struggle in the party as this could lead to disunity.

The Umno president said he was aware of such talk which had even been picked up by the foreign media.

The Prime Minister believed that these stories were circulated by people who wanted to see Umno ruined and the situation in the country chaotic.

"They cannot afford to see Umno strong and its members united. Apart from being able to create some interesting stories, they are also out to destroy Umno because they know the party's important role in the country," Dr Mahathir said when launching the *Gerak Kerja Perdana* programme of the Umno Youth Movement in Subang Jaya.

"This is bad...they envy the solidarity and strength of Umno," he said, adding that the members should be wary by avoiding any divisiveness.

He also told Youth members not to allow emotions to control their thinking in their activities. They should help consolidate Umno's strength and protect its unity because without these factors, Umno would be chaotic and the country's development would be impaired.

It is important that the process of change in the party leadership take place in a peaceful and proper manner and the members close ranks and support those they had elected.

Dr Mahathir said that the three-day course they were attending should be a sort of training to them as future leaders.

He advised the members not to be in a hurry in trying to take over the party leadership but to wait for their turn as the old leaders would definite phase out sooner or later.

He said that as a democratic ~~party~~ elections for leaders in Umno were natural but the process should

be done in good manner to ensure that their unity would not be affected.

Dr Mahathir said that it was also important for the members to appreciate the fact that democracy must be handled with wisdom or it would "kill".

"We must understand the shortcomings in a democratic system. Many countries were ruined because of democracy. They were not only developing countries...even developed ones become weak by practising democracy.

"There is a country in Europe which changed 57 governments in 50 years. Some times two governments in a year...it is like no government at all," he said.

He said that chaotic situations also emerged in some Western countries which introduced democratic policies.

"But in Malaysia, we should be thankful as we have been able to practise democracy quite well," he said.

The Government had always considered the interest of the plural society in its administration, he added.

Dr Mahathir called on the youth movement to help bring about a caring society.

"This is the kind of culture and value we want to instil in our youngsters so that they become part of them when they grow up," he said.

He was sad with the high percentage of Malay youths in dadah addiction, the *le-pak* (idle) culture and other "diseases" and discouraging performance in education.

Dr Mahathir believed these "diseases" were mainly caused by broken homes, lack of attention from parents and the failure of some teachers to promote good values.

"Islamic education has not been effective. Emphasis is only given to the dressing...wearing the *jubah* (cloak) and *serban* (turban), when actually it is what is in the heart that is important," he added.

Umno Youth leader Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, in his speech earlier,

said among its activities this year was a special cadre course for about 100,000 members at all levels.

Abdul Rahim, who is also the Malacca Chief Minister, said that it also planned to launch a poverty eradication programme nationwide soon together with the private sector and hold a seminar in July on the proposed establishment of the East Asia Economic Caucus.

Dr Mahathir then received a report containing the plan of action of the Umno Youth until 1996 by the director of the programme, Senator Datuk Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The three-day event that started yesterday is aimed at increasing commitment and leadership qualities of youth leaders, enabling them to help initiate programmes at divisional and State levels and explaining to members their activities from 1993 to 1996.

It is also aimed at heightening concern on poverty issues, which is the main agenda of the struggle.

More than 700 youth leaders from all over the country attended the programme, during which they held dialogues and discussions with party leaders, including Umno vice-presidents Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.