

# Dr M: I'm unhappy over talks of quarrels with DPM

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA TERENGGANU, Mon. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was unhappy that certain people were still spreading stories that he and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim were quarrelling.

Dr Mahathir said the stories were being spread by irresponsible elements claiming that he and Anwar were not seeing eye-to-eye and not getting along together.

Dr Mahathir said this when he was asked to elaborate on his one-hour talk to Umno and Barisan Nasional branch and divisional leaders at Wisma Darul Iman here today. He was accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and other BN leaders.

The hall was packed with grassroot leaders, some of whom were following the speech through closed-circuit television along the corridors and foyer.

Speaking at a Press conference after the speech, Dr Mahathir said: "I'm unhappy that the talk persists that Anwar and I are quarrelling and not united. Such talk has also appeared in foreign newspapers.

"This is not true... there is no reason why he and I should be quarrelling.

"There is talk that so and so are my men, and that so and so are his men. The talk goes on that I'm trying to bring his men down, and he, mine. In the end, it seems that my men win...

"There's no such thing as win or lose..."

The Umno president added that he learnt that Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah was spreading rumours about the so-called differences between him and Anwar.

Dr Mahathir said Tengku Razaleigh has been going around claiming that he and Anwar were no longer close, and that the public appearances reflecting their closeness were artificial.

Asked if the Prime Minister knew who could be using Tengku Razaleigh in this exercise, Dr Mahathir said that he had no knowledge of this. "But I was told that he's popular in Australia... maybe he should contest there," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said he was made to understand that Tengku Razaleigh was willing to allow himself to be used to depict a negative picture of the country, claiming that corruption has resulted in the country losing billions of ringgit.

The Prime Minister said Tengku Razaleigh's administrative style was to seek personal popularity. "But now we're working as a team in the people's interest, not for personal glory," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked whether Umno's internal problems would affect the party's general election preparations, Dr Mahathir said closing of ranks among members and genuine love for the party would ensure continued success.

He said Umno would remain victorious and that its

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fall would not be the result of external pressure but rather from within. Hence, party members must seek to understand fully the party's struggle so that they can help it grow and be strong always.

Dr Mahathir added that he did not want to see any Umno members denying support to those selected to contest in the elections. Not

extending their support would give other parties victory, Dr Mahathir said.

Later in Kuala Lumpur, Anwar confirmed that there was no strain in his relationship with Dr Mahathir.

"I regard Dr Mahathir as my leader and as a mentor in my political struggle," he said when asked by reporters in the lobby of Parliament House about Dr Mahathir's statement in Kuala Terengganu.