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Dr M tells delegates not to slander one another

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised delegates to the party's general assembly to maintain a high-level of ethics and not to slander one another during the meeting.

He said delegates should not make slanderous allegations including the so-called sex scandal involving certain people.

Dr Mahathir said this when briefing the delegates at the Putra World Trade Centre ahead of the party's general assembly which begins tomorrow with the Youth and Wanita meetings. The party's full assembly will begin on Friday.

Later, when asked by the Press to elaborate on his call, Dr Mahathir said: "All of you know about the so-called scandal which alleges that the Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) is a homosexual. Why such a rumour?"

"They allege that he is chasing women. If we see his car going towards certain direction, can we assume that he is going there to commit vice?"

"Even I travel in my car all over the place. What then is the interpretation?"

"There was a picture of me sitting next to someone else's wife and some people started saying that she was my wife."

On Aug 24, Dr Mahathir, when replying to questions from reporters, confirmed he had received a letter which contained sex allegations against Anwar.

He had said that although the writer admitted writing the letter, it was dictated by someone else.

Asked today if the Government was taking any action against the writers, Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said it wasn't, adding that the letter writers had admitted they were wrong in doing what they did.

"We don't want to be seen to be unduly oppressive. Somebody has put them up to it and we will leave it at that."

Asked if the Government would take action against those behind the writers of the letter, Dr Mahathir said they were very clever but the Government knew who they were.

Asked to elaborate on his statement over CNN yesterday that he had designated his successor, Dr Mahathir said:

"Yes, my successor is Datuk Seri Anwar. Elaborated."