

PM: Foreign instigators threaten unity

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SEKEMBAN: Accusations of cronyism and nepotism by foreign instigators pose a serious threat to Umno's unity as there are members who believe them, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"It (the instigation) is serious because our people accept the allegations," he said after a closed-door meeting with Negri Sembilan Umno leaders yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the opposition had, in turn, accepted them and was happily "whacking"

the Government with such accusations.

The scenario described had occurred in Arau where Barisan lost in the by-election, he said.

"This had become an issue in Arau. If we believe their allegations, they will then be a weapon to stab us back," he said.

"It is important for Umno members not to accept instigations of foreigners which can split the party."

When the people received certain information, Dr Mahathir said,

they might not analyse its meaning.

"People with ill-intentions can talk well and their ill-intentions may be hidden," he said.

Pinnointine, foreign instigators as those from the media, Dr Mahathir said the foreign press had hurled allegations of cronyism and nepotism in the country, claiming that the New Economic Policy was a manifestation of cronyism and nepotism.

They denied that they had any ill-intentions and said that they had good in-

tentions in wanting to see a transparent government, he said.

"Those who accused us of not being transparent are themselves not transparent.

"Until now, we do not know who is responsible in depressing the value of our currency. For that, they (the speculators) need not be transparent but we have to be transparent. That is double

standard," he said.

Later in his meeting with leaders from Barisan component parties, heads of departments and other community leaders, the Prime Minister expressed worry that there were efforts among the Chinese press and the DAP to attack Indonesia for the riots which had affected the Chinese in that country.

"I-appeal to the Chinese

press and DAP not to use Malaysia to attack Indonesia on their internal problems," he said, adding that it was not the way to help them.

Indonesia, he said, should be persuaded to find a way to distribute wealth among various races in the country.

It was better that aid in the form of medicine or rice be sent to help Indonesia, he added.