

Tok Mat:

Umno

does not

have two

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captains

By PHILIP GOLINGAI

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno members have been urged to stop attempts to promote the idea that the party has two leaders.

Likening the party to a ship, Umno supreme council member Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said there could be only one captain.

"Umno has only one leader and he is (Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We have to support him. All party members must be loyal to him," he told reporters yesterday after launching the Kuala Lumpur '98 Games theme song at Angkasapuri here.

Mohamed, who is Information Minister, said certain quarters were painting a picture as if there was disunity in the party and that there were two leaders.

"They try to create the impression that there exists two factions, one on Dr Mahathir's side and the other, with his deputy (Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim.

"If the idea is allowed to persist, the unity in Umno will be affected.

"Not only the party will suffer but the country will, too," he added.

Mohamed, who is Barisan Nasional secretary-general, also said the coalition's component parties should be prepared for a general election.

"When it is (going to be held) I do not know, but we have to think that it can happen anytime," he said.

Mohamed also said that voters should retain the present Government especially when the country was facing an economic crisis and external threats.