

26/08/1998

Be wary of foreign media, leaders told

SHAH ALAM, Tues. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded party leaders and members in the State to exercise extra care when dealing with foreign media to avoid becoming their tools.

State Umno chief Datuk Abu Hassan Omar, who is also Menteri Besar, said the Prime Minister told them to be wary of foreign reports about the country and the party.

The advice came during their hour-long closed-door meeting at the Menteri Besar's residence here.

"Dr Mahathir also explained in detail the tactics employed by foreign media and other foreign groups to discredit the country and leadership by using Malaysians," Abu Hassan said.

On Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's statement yesterday that there should only be one general in the party, Abu Hassan said:

"That should be the case in any organisation if it is to remain united and strong. For Umno, this principle must be upheld by all, especially in these trying times."

He said since Umno was the backbone of the Barisan Nasional, it was imperative that it remained strong and united to ensure the country's success in overcoming the current economic problems.

For the sake of the country, said Abu Hassan, only the general should be allowed to make major decisions regarding policies and directions of the country, so as to dispel perceptions of internal problems.

"Only one person should be allowed to make decisions, while the rest should devote their efforts towards implementing the decision successfully.

"However, from time to time, there must be discussions between the general and others," he added.

(END)