

28 SEP 1998

Mohamed-Umno

UMNO DIVISIONS USED TO TOPPLE DR MAHATHIR- MOHAMED RAHMAT

JOHOR BAHRU, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today that several Umno Divisions have been used for the purpose of toppling Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as party president.

Leaders at divisional levels had been paid monthly allowances of between RM5,000 and RM10,000 and some divisions had been allocated with RM1 million to RM2 million to carry out subversive activities in Umno, he said.

"We can identify the divisions involved. There is talk that 90 divisions had been used in this way," he told reporters after attending a briefing on current political issues at the Pulai Umno Division.

Mohamed, who is also a member of the Umno Supreme Council, said the leaders of these divisions should repent and return to the party's struggle.

"The money they received is to implement programmes to topple the leadership," he said.

He said the integrity of Umno had been challenged and hence every member should show loyalty to the party and accept with an open mind the Prime Minister's decision to sack Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the government.

They should also accept the Umno Supreme Council's decision to expel Anwar from the party as the move was to preserve Umno's cleanliness, Mohamed said.

He also hit out at groups using mosques as venues for demonstrations and reminded the people not to get involved as the police would take firm action.

"This problem is not a problem of religion. Hence it is inappropriate to use mosques," he said.

Mohamed said there was proof of foreign interference to weaken the Malaysian Government following the sacking of Anwar.

"The foreign media played a role in this matter," he said.

He also said Anwar's supporters had gone to several countries to enlist their support and that of non-governmental organisations to achieve their objectives.

He said what was being faced now was an internal matter and Malaysians had the right to resolve the problem themselves without outside interference.

-- BERNAMA

MKO MAI AAM