

22/07/1998

`Umno leaders now understand situation'

SEREMBAN, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said his meetings with divisional Umno leaders in Kedah, Malacca and Negri Sembilan had made them understand better the country's economic situation.

He said such meetings had made them see the country's problems in the right perspective.

Encouraged by this, he said, he would be going to other States later for a similar purpose.

Dr Mahathir said this at a Press conference after a closed-door meeting with Negri Sembilan Umno leaders this morning.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the focus during the meeting was on the importance of unity and strength and not allowing Umno members to be influenced by outside instigation which could cause a split in the party.

He said that it was necessary for him to explain to Umno leaders accusations by outside parties as some members still failed to really understand the motives of the outsiders.

"They (outsiders) always deny that they have evil intention. They always say they have good intention (such as) to establish a transparent government, but they make baseless allegations."

Asked on the seriousness of the effect of the accusations, Dr Mahathir said it was serious enough. If Umno members submitted to these accusations, the Opposition would be too happy to exploit them as had occurred during the Arau by-election campaign.

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