

19 JUL 1999

Mahathir-Veterans

ENSURE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF UMNO PREVAILS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR SETAR, July 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno members should ensure that the true spirit of Umno prevails in their homes.

He said that they should not allow their children and their grandchildren, especially those in universities, to be influenced by PAS.

Dr Mahathir said that he found many students who came from families of Umno members involved in anti-government activities.

This showed the strong influence PAS had on the younger generation because they had not been made truly aware that the progress and development which had been achieved by the country were due to the struggles by Umno through their fathers and forefathers.

"All this is the work of PAS...they incite the children of Umno members to oppose the government led by Umno. This I cannot accept," he said at a gathering of about 50 Kedah Umno veterans at his residence, "Pondok Maharizan", in Titi Gajah, near here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that the younger generation also resorted to such actions as they felt it was in keeping with the modern lifestyle which advocates freedom and liberal ideas.

Such freedom should not induce them to undermine what had been built by their fathers and forefathers, he said.

"As such, we should put things in the proper perspective in our homes.

"Let us not allow the children and grandchildren of genuine Umno members, Umno founders to be involved in attempts to destroy the nation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that when Umno was founded, party members had never thought of the party struggles as that for their own personal interest but that for the interest of society.

Through their struggles, however, many Malays had become high ranking officials, lawyers, engineers, corporate leaders and millionaires.

All this was due to Umno's struggles, he said, criticising PAS for continuously attacking the government especially with the approach of the general election.

-- BERNAMA

MZM RM