

# Dr M urges those who slander to heed Rulers' call for unity

**By Zubaidah Abu Bakar and Sharanjit Singh**

JITRA, Thurs. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Muslim political leaders who spread lies and slander others to heed the Malay Rulers' call for unity.

The Prime Minister said such action was also against Islamic teachings.

"Our (Umno) efforts to unite the people (Muslims) have been opposed by those who wear the mask of Islam

"They go around spreading all kinds of lies to discredit others. I hope they will heed the Rulers' call

and return to the right path," he said when opening the Kubang Pasu Umno division delegates' meeting at Dewan Jitra here.

-Also present was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

In his 90-minute speech, Dr Mahathir, who is also Kubang Pasu division chief, stressed the importance of unity among the Malays.

He said the Malays under Umno had been able to steer the country to where it was today because of their unity.

"We were able to challenge the British plans to form the Malayan Union, fight off the communist insurgency and also overcome the confrontation with Indonesian forces.

"These were achieved because the people, a majority of whom were in Umno, were united. There was only one major political party which the Malays supported and that was Umno. There was no Pas."

However, Dr Mahathir said, some

**PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 2, COL 3**

## 'Visit not aimed at helping Saddam'

**FROM PAGE ONE**

Malays, especially the younger generation, had deserted Umno as they did not realise Umno's past struggles and put individual interests above those of the party.

He added they became disappointed when they were not nominated for posts or chosen as candidates for the general election.

This was the case in the Nov 29 general election when many Umno members sabotaged party candidates because they or their choice of leaders were not nominated.

"These were among the reasons for Umno's dismal performance in the election. This happened not because Pas was strong

but because of Umno's internal problems," he added.

The Prime Minister also touched on the principles of democracy, and stressed that it should not be used as a tool to destroy the party.

He said Umno practised democracy but there were some things which needed to be carefully considered.

On Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali's visit to Iraq, Dr Mahathir said it was not aimed at helping President Saddam Hussein but to sympathise with the suffering Iraqi people who lacked food and medicine.

The visit was made because Malaysia upheld human rights, the Prime Minister add-

ed.

"We are not out to help Saddam and moreover he does not need our help."

He said the United States had, however, condemned the visit.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

However, he added, it did not agree to Iraq being made a victim and held hostage by the superpowers through economic sanctions.

Dr Siti Hasmah is leading a women's delegation on a visit to Iraq and Jordan.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir attended a dinner with the people in Kampung Guar Tanah Rang, Mukim Jeram, Tunjang, near here.

Also present was Syed Razak.