

Help wipe out corruption, says PM

KUALA LLJMPLJR, Mon: Malav intellectuals should help put an end to corruption before it destroys the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight. **JUN 16 5 2000**

He said his strong statements against money politics did not go down well with some delegates at the recent-Iv-concluded Umno General Assembly.

"Some people think that it is all right to receive money to vote for a delegate. They think there is nothing wrong in getting some money as 'we are helping the candidate achieve success and high position' (by voting for them)," he said.

Mahathir, who is Umno president, said it is attitudes like this which will one day make corruption a norm in the country

"If this happens, we are finished," he said. "Then government officers will be expecting pay-outs. If they want more, they will delay approval. Costs will go up and projects will be delayed," he told a gathering at the launch of the Umno Overseas Members Alumni at Putra World Trade Centre.

The alumni comprises more than 600 former members of 24 overseas Umno clubs.

He called on members and other Malav intellectuals to help eradicate corruption as it will destroy the Malav race.

"When we become like some countries where corruption is a culture, the poor will be burdened further as they cannot afford to pay corruption money. And the poorest in Malaysia are the Malays," he said.