

BN to explain Sauk to members

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Move necessary to clear any misunderstanding, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues: All Barisan Nasional component parties have been asked to meet party members and the public to explain all aspects of the Sauk incident and the deviant activities of the Al Ma'unah movement.

Prime Minister and Barisan Nasional chairman **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said an accurate explanation was necessary to avoid any misunderstanding that could arise among Barisan members.

"This is to clear any misunderstanding between the component parties that the Al Ma'unah's actions were sanctioned by Islamic teachings," he said.

Earlier, Mahathir chaired a two-and-half-hour BN supreme council meeting at Umno headquarters here today attended by all the top leaders of BN component parties.

Mahathir also said the government did not condone or support any of the actions taken by the Al Ma'unah group because Islam does not propagate the "act of hurting nbn-Muslims".

"The effects of the hate campaign started by the Opposition, especially PAS, had gone to a dangerous level

leading to such incidents. This trend needs to be explained," he said.

Mahathir said certain people had been influenced by the hate campaign and had blindly acted without verifying the truth and repeated the hate campaign's allegations against the government.

"They acted with anger and hatred to the government without considering the after-effects of their actions on themselves and the country," Mahathir said.

Asked if the Sauk incident had undermined the relationship among the BN component parties, he said it has not, but that the component parties wanted to know what had actually happened in Sauk.

"They want to know so that they can calm down the feelings of their members and the people," he said citing an example in Sarawak where many people may have been offended when an **Iban (Mathew anak Medan)** was killed during the five-day stand-off.

"We explained to them (in Sarawak) that this is not a case of a Muslim attacking the Iban people, but a crime committed by a group which the government and Muslims

in Malaysia do not support," he said.

On the effects of the Sauk incident on the people, Ma-

hathir said there was some misunderstandings among the non-Malays and, therefore, the government had to

explain that they do not support the act.

Mahathir said he and his deputy, **Datuk Seri Abdullah**

Ahmad Badawi, gave a detailed explanation of the Sauk incident to all the BN component parties leaders.