

05 FEB 2000

Mahathir-Politics

UMNO TO STRIVE FURTHER TO UNITE THE MALAYS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Umno will strive further to unite the Malays.

"We will strive further...they will be given adequate information. They will be united once again," he told reporters at the MCA's Chinese New Year gathering, here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that Umno was collecting data and proof on PAS' "fatwa" (religious rulings), said to have deviated from the true teachings of Islam, for further action to be taken.

"We will provide proof...we are gathering information," he said when commenting on the recent statement by PAS that proof be provided to show that the opposition party had issued "fatwa" against the true teachings of Islam.

Asked on the code of ethics for the Umno party election in May, Dr Mahathir said: "What we are against are misuse of money and things like that".

Commenting on doubts over the code, he said that codes of ethics always have shortcomings but the clear guidelines had to be observed.

Aspiring candidates in the party election had to abide by the code of ethics approved by the Umno supreme council.

-- BERNAMA

GM RM