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Umno throws a dare to Pas

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Umno today challenged Pas to prove that none of its members, supporters or activists were linked to the Al-Ma'unah deviationist group.

Umno information chief Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said Pas had until now refrained from denying Government's findings that most of the 1,800 members of the group were Pas members.

"Pas seems to be distancing itself from the issue. Until now, it has not come out with something concrete to say that it has no link to the group."

Mustapa, who is also Umno Kelantan chief, was speaking to reporters after closing a two-day information course organised by the party for its division information chiefs here.

Also present were Umno vice-presidents Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib and Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who earlier took part in a dialogue session with those who attended the course.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday had revealed that most of the Al-Ma'unah group, who were involved in the arms heist and hostage incident in Perak earlier this month, were Pas members.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, had said Pas flags, signboards and banners were displayed at Al-Ma'unah centres and on its followers' vehicles.

Mustapa said Pas had so far distanced itself by denying it had links to the group simply because it could not prove otherwise.

"But of course, its followers and supporters will always believe everything they say, even if there is solid proof against the party."

Muhyiddin, during the dialogue, criticised Pas for making false allegations that the Sauk incident was Umno's "stage drama".

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