

PM: Mixed views on politics confusing Malays

STAR 29 MAY 2001

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday expressed concern that the people are getting confused over the political situation in the country due to too much focus given to the issue.

He said, the problem was worse among Malays because of the differing views expressed by many about Malay politics.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said previously it was easy to understand the struggle of Malay politics as its thrust was to ensure an appropriate position for bumiputras.

"But now, there are some who feel that such a position is no longer important because there are other more pressing needs," he said when launching the website of the Umno Civil Action Bureau here.

On the bureau, Dr Mahathir said it was a step towards promoting service-oriented activities among party members.

The bureau, he said, would enable the party to carry out charitable work systematically.

He also advised the bureau not to limit its service to party members or Malays, but to open its doors to people of other races who needed help.

Bureau head Azalina Othman Said also expressed the hope that more Malays, especially party activists, would offer their service.

Azalina, who is also the pro tem chairman of Puteri Umno, said she was trying to inculcate a service-oriented culture among Umno members.