

Board's decision a warning to all: Dr M

SUN 20 JUN 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues: The Umno disciplinary board's action in suspending those found guilty of irregularities at the last divisional elections serves as a warning to all.

Party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the move warns members who use unacceptable methods of campaigning of the risk they take.

"Rejuvenate or not, I don't know. But what we want to do is to clean up Umno," he said when asked if the move will rejuvenate the party.

The board suspended six party leaders, including two division heads, on Saturday for irregularities. Another nine were found guilty but were let off with a warning.

Earlier, Mahathir gave a closed-door briefing to delegates of the annual general assembly, which starts tomorrow with the Umno Wanita and Youth assemblies.

Asked about the briefing, he said he explained to the delegates the process of determining who is guilty and not guilty of money politics.

"I told them in this kind of matter, there are those who will escape (punishment) and there are those who are unfortunate enough to be caught," he said.

"But that's the way it is,

just like our judicial system where a lot of people have committed murder but not all are caught."

Asked if the delegates were dissatisfied with the decisions made by the disciplinary board, he said the delegates accepted his explanation but "there are those who are dissatisfied".

**'Rejuvenate or not,
I don't know.
But what we want
to do is to
clean up Umno.'**

- Mahathir

On former Umno deputy president Tun Ghaffar Baba's suggestion yesterday that money politics in the party should be eliminated starting from the supreme council level, Mahathir said supreme council members were chosen by party members and not by him.

"An easy way to clean up the council is by not electing those who are not clean.

"I appointed a menteri besar to the council but he is also elected by the people, not by me.

"If we (the people) don't like him, then early on we should not have elected (him)."