

# Osu: Outsiders instigating contests

STAR 6.2.2001

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Osu Sukam said certain "outsiders" were meddling in the party's affairs.

Osu, who did not say who the outsiders were, claimed they wanted to weaken the party by urging certain leaders to contest for the post of division chiefs in efforts to break up Umno and Barisan Nasional.

He advised party leaders at the various levels not to be influenced by these outsiders and be on their guard against those trying to influence them.

Osu said a similar situation arose in the 1998 party elections as initial-

some outsiders had influenced members to change their mind.

"These people were unhappy when the party managed to stop contests (in 1998).

"These people want to see the party break broken up ... so they encourage certain leaders to contest against incumbents," he said, after chairing the monthly state liaison committee meeting here.

Osu added that the state liaison committee was advising against contests in the coming party division elections.

"We urged them (members) to fill the various positions through con-

way is to sit down and talk," he said.

He added that the "no-contest" call was only an advice.

"We cannot stop anyone from contesting if they insist. All I can say is that if there are contests, party interest must be above self-interest," he added.

Osu, who is Chief Minister, also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would open the Asean Education Ministers Meeting here on Feb 12.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to arrive on Feb 11 and will meet the Sabah Umno liaison committee and members of the Umno divisions of Gaya,

... ..