

Submit complaints for discussion: Dr M

STAR SUN 11.2.2001

'Problems must be examined by Umno supreme council'

By **Ferida Abdul Kudhus**
and **Hazatul Syima**

newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: Umno members have been told to submit their problems and grouses to the party's supreme council members for discussion in the council meeting, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said party members can also write directly to the supreme council members or the party headquarters.

"We are of the opinion that such problems must be discussed in the supreme council. If a member has a problem and complains to the media, the media will then censure the party and this will help the opposition party," he told a press conference after chairing the party supreme council meeting.

Asked whether this is a gag order and in reference to the Malay Action Front at whose gathering on Feb 4, Umno and the government were criticised, Mahathir said: "No, but there must be discipline in the party.

"This is a general order," he said, adding if members persist in going to the media with their dissatisfaction they can still talk, but they can say that Umno is a strong party.

"That is unity in Umno ... that they can say to the media," Mahathir said, adding any party member, especially supreme council members, who are not satisfied with "certain things" in Umno should approach the supreme council meeting.

"If there are people who are not satisfied (with the party), he (the supreme coun-

cil member) has a duty to inform the council."

Meanwhile, Mahathir also said the Umno Supreme Council today had agreed to the establishment of Puteri Umno with membership open to those aged 35 and below.

Mahathir said a pro-tem committee will be set up at the central level to iron out the establishment of Puteri Um-

no at central and state levels. "We have not decided on the pro-tem committee members yet," he said.

On the Kelantan state government's intention to amend the state constitution to reduce the palace's involvement in the state's administration, he said: "That is the state's problem. We have nothing to do with it."