

17 FEB 2001

Mahathir-Meeting

DR MAHATHIR DOES NOT WANT TO JEOPARDISE UMNO-PAS MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today declined to comment on the upcoming Umno-Pas meeting to discuss Malay unity because he does not want to jeopardise the talks.

"(I'm) afraid that some people may be dissatisfied if I make any comment although I only give normal information.

"(I'm) afraid that this may affect our effort to hold the meeting," he told reporters after launching the Information and Communication Technology Literacy for K-economy Gathering at Stadium Putra, Bukit Jalil, here.

He said what was important was that the two parties meet.

"When we meet, we can say anything," Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said.

He had announced last Saturday that Umno had agreed to hold the talks this Monday.

Yesterday, the Umno and PAS technical committees on the talks met for the second time at Carcosa Seri Negara, here.

Both sides, however, declined to reveal the outcome of the two-hour meeting to reporters.

PAS secretary-general Haji Nasharuddin Mat Isa, who led the PAS technical committee, said the party would hold a news conference at its headquarters in Taman Melewar, here, at 3pm tomorrow.

The Umno technical committee was led by its secretary-general, Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

-- BERNAMA

MAM AZZ JK