

17/10/2001

Dr Mahathir: They have no meaningful struggle

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - It is not surprising that Parti Keadilan Nasional leaders are giving up their posts as the party has no meaningful struggle, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Keadilan's only aim was to free former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from jail where he was serving time for corrupt practices and sodomy.

Dr Mahathir said its leaders have seen that the party's only goal was to secure the freedom of a man who had been convicted of a crime.

"Their struggle is not to develop the country or to improve people's lives.

"So when their leaders see that there is no meaningful goal, they will leave," Dr Mahathir told reporters after launching the Amanah Saham Nasional 3 Imbang.

He was asked to comment on the fact that the party recently lost its deputy president Dr Chandra Muzaffar and vice Youth chief Hamdan Taha who have decided to remain as inactive members.

Asked if Umno would accept Keadilan members who wanted to rejoin the party from which they had left, he said Umno needed to know their real stand as it could not have members who walked in and out as they pleased.

Asked about the Organisation of Islamic Conference's suggestion that he becomes its spokesman on terrorism, Dr Mahathir said he had not been invited to take up such a post.

He added he would decline the job as there were others who could handle the responsibility.

Yesterday, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said Saudi Arabia's Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Abdul Aziz Al Saud had conveyed the OIC's message to Dr Mahathir.

The OIC had wanted Dr Mahathir as its spokesman on this issue because he was far-sighted and not emotional about it.

(END)