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MBS urge opposition parties to be open-minded

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Two State Umno chiefs today urged Malay-based opposition parties to be open-minded in their response to Umno's initiative to unite the Malays.

In Kangar, Perlis Umno chairman and Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said all parties should be willing to sacrifice part of their principles and place unity above personal interest.

"We should not think about who should win or lose. It should be a win-win situation for all," he said at his Hari Raya open house today.

Shahidan said the unity shown by the people during the Hari Raya celebration should be maintained.

Any existing rift among them must be mended, he added.

In Seremban, Negri Sembilan Umno chief and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad said the opposition had no reason to fear discussing with Umno on efforts to unite the Malays.

"Malay unity is vital to the country's stability and progress and there is therefore no need for any quarters to think about politics when called to discuss the matter," the Menteri Besar added.

"The desire of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to maintain the unity of Malays in the country should be viewed in this (apolitical) light," Mohamad Isa added.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting with Umno State Assemblyman following the State Executive Council Meeting here today.

Mohamad Isa said it should be understood that Dr Mahathir's call for Malay unity was for the good of the nation as a whole.

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