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Umno, Pas hold informal unity talks

MALACCA, Tues. - Efforts aimed at uniting the Malays took another positive turn when a State Umno leader met Pas grassroots leaders and held an open and informal discussion on the matter.

The meeting was held between a group of 30 Umno and six Pas leaders and members at the Solok Gaung mosque in Bukit Baru yesterday after they performed the zohor prayers together.

Leading them in the brief meeting were Umno supreme council member and State Umno chief Datuk Wira Mohd Ali Rustam and Pas Batu Berendam commissioner Md Diah Abdul.

Mohd Ali and his group had gone to the mosque while making Hari Raya visits to the houses of some Umno leaders in the Batu Berendam parliamentary constituency.

After performing the prayers, Md Diah, who was there with five other Pas members, invited Mohd Ali, who is also the Chief Minister, to give a speech.

In his brief speech, Mohd Ali explained the desire of Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to have Malays remain united.

Mohd Ali has repeated the call in recent weeks for Malays to set aside their political differences and discuss ways to strengthen Malay unity.

Met at his office today, Mohd Ali said Md Diah appeared receptive to Dr Mahathir's efforts to strengthen Malay unity. Md Diah had expressed his willingness to bring up the matter with other Pas leaders.

"This is a good start for further discussions," said Mohd Ali.

He said he would wait for guidelines from the supreme council before deciding on formal discussions with Pas and Keadilan leaders in Malacca.

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