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Umno to dissolve clubs abroad if against the law

UMNO will dissolve its clubs overseas if their establishment is against the law of the country, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We will not disobey their laws. If that's the law (stipulating that Umno cannot set up clubs in a particular country), we will dissolve them," he said in response to a question on whether Umno would dissolve its clubs in Indonesia as the law there did not allow the establishment of such clubs.

The Prime Minister said this in a dialogue with Malaysians, who are studying and working in Indonesia, at the Malaysian Embassy tonight.

Dr Mahathir said he was concerned that certain quarters in Malaysia would intensify their activities abroad to influence Malaysians to hate the Government.

Dr Mahathir fielded a few questions, mostly from students, ranging from scholarships, recognition of Indonesian universities, Internal Security Act and the Sabah Chief Minister's rotation system.

In his speech earlier, Dr Mahathir spoke on the need for students who are studying abroad to learn local customs and culture.

He also explained educational issues including the quota system for universities and the lack of male students in local universities.

The Prime Minister also explained the anticipated economic situation as a result of the economic slowdown in the United States and the country's political situation.

However, he said counter measures had been taken to cushion the effects.

On why the Government arrested certain opposition leaders under the ISA, Dr Mahathir said it was a preventive measure to stop them from creating chaos which would affect others who wanted peace to prevail.

Dr Mahathir was here to attend the G-15 Summit which ended yesterday.

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