

'We have proof of KMM's plans'

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Movement wants to topple govt using violence, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs: The government has concrete proof of the involvement of Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) in terrorism, its future plans and its link to international terrorist groups.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government has identified many of those involved in KMM and will continue to take the necessary steps to end its threat to national security.

"The movement is very dangerous as it wants to use violence to topple the

government. It doesn't believe in the democratic process," he said after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting at the party headquarters.

Mahathir said KMM is one of the reasons why preventive laws are necessary.

"It helps to prevent certain crimes from being committed and dangerous criminals to be detained without having to go to court," he said.

On another note, Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the supreme council protests the poor

treatment of Al Qaeda prisoners by the US government.

He said the prisoners, held in high-security detention at Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are being treated inhumanely.

"We will request Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar to send a memo of our protest to the US government on this matter," he said.

At the same news conference, Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president Datuk Seri

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said there will be no ruling to prevent branches from recruiting new members or for members to switch branches before the branch elections.

At the same time, branches which need to postpone their meeting if too many members are leaving for the Haj pilgrimage, must make their application through the respective divisions.

Abdullah said the supreme council has also approved the setting up of 44 new branches.