

Avoid pitting leaders against each other, Puteri Umno told

STAR 2 AUG 2002

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised Puteri Umno to avoid the culture of pitting leaders against each other during party elections.

The Umno president said he had observed that certain party members not picked to stand for election would expose the flaws and weaknesses of their rivals.

"Puteri is still clean. I would like to urge you to maintain the clean image and not allow such bad culture to infiltrate the movement," he said during a special session to brief the movement on conducting its upcoming branch and division meetings at Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

"You should not focus on weaknesses of certain individuals and expose them. This should not happen because

when the personal lives of these individuals are exposed, it is not only their image that is tarnished, but the party's too.

"There is no perfect leader, but you should not put leaders at loggerheads as-it will not help the party," he added.

Dr Mahathir also reminded candidates and delegates to the divisional meetings in October not to resort to money politics.

The movement's branch elections have been fixed from Aug 1 to Sept 16. The divisions will hold their elections between Sept 16 and Oct 15. The national-level elections are scheduled for Nov 2.

The Prime Minister also said the Government had given adequate opportunities to the Malays but it was up to them to take full advantage to ensure their success.

Dr Mahathir, who was asked to comment a report in a local daily that the Malays in Penang were the most disadvantaged as they were said to be neglected by the state government, said the Malays should not simply accuse others for being responsible for their failures.

Tanjung Umno division chief Datuk Ahmad Ibni Hajar had said on Sunday that the Malays in Penang would face the same fate as those in Singapore if the state government continued to ignore the race in its development plans.

Ahmad also claimed that about 95% of the development projects, particularly new townships involving construction of shopping lots and housing schemes, were monopolised by non-Malays.