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Dr M's advice to information bureau

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded members of the party's information bureau on the importance of effective dissemination of information to the grassroots.

The Prime Minister also expressed his wish to see the bureau work hard to ensure Umno's information and activities reached the masses.

He said this during a two-hour meeting with the 60-member bureau in Putrajaya yesterday.

Also present at the meeting were his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the party secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

Umno information chief Tan Sri Megat Junid Megat Ayob, when contacted today, said Dr Mahathir had called for the meeting and had given some useful advice.

"The president touched on several important topics and advised us what to do.

"We are ready to take the responsibility entrusted upon us," added Megat Junid.

The information bureau used to have 35 members but the number had been increased to 60 after Megat Junid took over the post from Datuk Mustapa Mohamed in May.

Umno hopes the new members, comprising academicians, media practitioners and other professionals from various social and political backgrounds, would strengthen the party.

Megat Junid said consultations and exchanges of views between academicians, professionals and politicians could help improve the quality of political thinking, debates and policy making, hence help strengthen the people's support for Umno.

On his nationwide tour to get feedback on the party's strengths and weaknesses, Megat Junid said the programme was put on hold during the Pendang and Anak Bukit by-elections.

As for Pas-led Kelantan and Terengganu, Megat Junid said he was confident the task force headed by Mustapa would be able to counter the Opposition and strengthen Umno in the two States.