

25 JAN 2002

Mahathir-Umno

MAINTAIN UMNO'S ORDERLINESS AND DISCIPLINE, UMNO MEMBERS TOLD

MELAKA, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Umno members must strive to maintain Umno's orderliness and discipline to ensure the party's victory in the elections.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that a party's success depends on its members' discipline, the awareness of their role in making contributions as well as their commitment and loyalty to the party's leadership.

"We have somewhat achieved this objective because we know that in the general elections or by-elections, we can issue instructions from the federal level to mobilise the party's machinery," he said when opening a course organised by the Umno Training Bureau, here.

The three-day course which commenced yesterday is attended by 320 chairmen and secretaries of 165 Umno divisions throughout the country. Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Ali Rustam, who is Umno's Training Bureau chairman, was present.

The prime minister said that Umno's organisational structure was so orderly that not only the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties but also the opposition parties had copied the BN's dominant party's structure.

"If we are effective today, to be able to rule the country from pre-independence and never suffering defeat at the federal level, it is because we have an organisation which is orderly," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the victory of the BN in the recent Indera Kayangan state by-election was due to the party's machinery which was not only activated in Indera Kayangan.

"But to assist the BN, we sent out instructions to activate the machinery from another place. We have seen how effective the machinery has been as it was activated according to the instructions of those chosen to manage all the processes to win the by-election," he said.

In KOTA BAHARU, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) member Datuk Lee Lam Thye said it would also lodge an official protest against America's treatment of the prisoners.

"We will hand over a memorandum to the Foreign Ministry for submission to the United States government," he said.

"We (Suhakam) regret such actions (treatment of the prisoners) which clearly contravene international regulations on the rights of prisoners," he told reporters after launching the Crime Prevention Club of Sekolah Menengah Chung Hwa today.

Suhakam hoped that the US would stop treating the prisoners so harshly, he said.

-- BERNAMA

MNR BD YBY