

04 MAR 2002

NO DISCRIMINATION IN UMNO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

TAIPING, March 4 (Bernama) -- Umno does not discriminate in implementing development in the country and all the people are given equal attention irrespective of race, religion or ideology, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhamad Taib said.

He said there was no new trend whereby more allocations were given to constituencies with elected representatives from opposition parties to garner votes.

He said Umno had managed to counter previous claims that it only developed areas which it won in the election but now, when it tried to develop the opposition areas, it was accused to trying to win the hearts of the people there.

Speaking to reporters after jointly opening the meetings of Umno branches in the Taiping division here yesterday, he said development would be carried out in all areas according to their needs, irrespective of whether or not they were held by Umno.

On another matter, he said Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had given him the task of strengthening the party machinery in several areas that were likely to face a by-election.

He said that irrespective of whether or not there was a by-election, Umno should always be prepared for one.

-- BERNAMA

KAY JK