

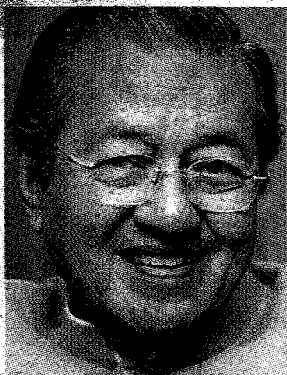
Dr M: Umno using ruling to keep me quiet

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno's ruling that only supreme council members and ministers open the party's division meetings was made to prevent campaigning in the party elections, said former president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

But now, he said, the ruling was being followed not due to campaigning but to prevent some people like him from speaking at the meetings.

"It is one person who is a nuisance and we have to block him," he said after delivering a lunch talk on *Globalisation and Its Challenges, for the Developed and Developing Nations*, organised by the Malaysia-German



Dr Mahathir: 'It is one person who is a nuisance and we have to block him'

Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Dr Mahathir said the party had issued the ruling because "some people wanted to make use of the opening speeches to campaign for themselves."

Asked if issues raised by him had created doubts among Umno members, Dr Mahathir said he was willing to explain to the members if given the opportunity.

On the proposed bullet train, he said the Cabinet had done the right thing in deciding to carry out an impact study before making a decision.

"It (the bullet train) was proposed during my time but we turned it down as we found it not suitable," he said.

"Maybe now it is suitable. We had our own ideas but other people may have their own ideas."