

'HELPING MALAYS TO SUCCEED--IN AND OUTSIDE NATION'

Tasks ahead for Umno: Mahathir



DR. MAHATHIR

"...Malays are better off now"

ALOR STAR, Sat. — Umno will continue to fight for Malays until they can stand on their own feet and compete successfully with others in and outside the country, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"Until Malays are powerful in economics, education and trade we cannot do away with Umno," he said when opening the annual delegates conference of the Kubang Pasu Umno Division in Pulau Nylor near here.

"We have not come to this stage yet and there is a lot more for Umno to do."

Dr. Mahathir, who is also a vice-president of the party, said Malays were fortunate compared with the position of nationals of other countries.

"Our position is an exception. For example, the Malays are holding high positions, receiving high pay and lighter work. But Umno is not satisfied yet

and we want to try to give more."

Dr. Mahathir said since its inception about 30 years ago, Umno had been very successful in its struggle for the Malays and the nation by working with other political parties like the MCA and MIC.

Umno had brought benefits to everyone. There were, however, some who had benefited more and others less. It would be impossible for Umno to provide the same benefits to each and every one, he said.

The struggle

It would also be impossible for Umno to satisfy everyone. However, if the Malays compared their present situation with the past, they should be thankful to Umno.

Dr. Mahathir said the standard of living of the Malays had improved considerably because of Umno's struggle.

Umno had succeeded in

this because of the unity of its members. Therefore, all members should support and continue to work hard to strengthen Umno.

Dr. Mahathir urged members to be tolerant and considerate towards one another.

He said they should not harbour any ill-feeling, because this would prevent them from working closely together.

Dr. Mahathir recalled that during the colonial days, a BA degree for a Malay was considered a great achievement. But today the country had thousands of Malays with the degree.

Referring to his post as Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir said he had to be fair to all. "I cannot entertain special requests for special favours from my friends or my constituents," he said.

"I can only correct injustice and cannot do this by favouring my friends or my constituents. I hope they will understand this."