

If Umno leaders misuse their powers...

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ALOR STAR, Friday.

ANY misuse of power by Umno leaders can result in very serious consequences to the nation, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"If Umno leaders misused their powers Malaysia will face the same fate as other Asian countries whose leaders had misused their authority," he said at the opening of the Alor Star Umno division meeting at the Seri Amar Di-Raja Secondary School today.

Dr. Mahathir said Umno members must abide by the party's rules and regulations and uphold its constitution for the good of the party.

He said there were many members who misunderstood the functions of the country's laws.

Although Umno was a party behind the Government, it did not mean its members were above the law.

Umno had a two-thirds majority in Parliament and could introduce any form of law but if the law was not acceptable by the majority of the people, it would not be effective.

On the other hand, if Umno used its power indiscriminately and according to its whims and fancies, it would only create greater opposition from the people.

'Wrong attitude'

"Therefore, we can only make use of our power according to the support we get," he said.

Referring to resignations by disheartened Umno members who lost in the party's general election, Dr. Mahathir said such action would only weaken the party.

However, he added, the resignations were fewer compared with those in the past.

There were also others who refused to accept the new leaders. Such an attitude was detrimental to Umno.

Dr. Mahathir said Umno would always strive to maintain the unity of Malays.

Speaking at a dinner last night given in his honour by the Kedah branch of the National Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Mahathir said the Government was encouraging

the people, especially bumiputras, to take up business because it was one way to make them rich.

He said that if the people were rich, the Government would also be rich.

Dr. Mahathir said every year more business opportunities were being created by the Government and the private sector.

It was, therefore, up to the businessmen to grab the opportunity.

For example, he said, the Malaysian satay could be developed into big business if this delicacy could be produced in the form of quick frozen satay.

Full support

Mentri Besar Dato Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin pledged the State Government's full support for Dr. Mahathir's suggestion to the chamber to set up a unit trust to buy shares reserved for bumiputras.

The Mentri Besar said the State Economic Development Corporation and UDA (Urban Development Authority) would jointly build shop houses in business centres and rent them to bumiputras at low rental fees.

He predicted that the future of Kedah in the field of industry and development was good with the appointment of Dr. Mahathir as Deputy Prime Minister.



DR. MAHATHIR
... warned of serious
consequences