

# WE ARE AT WAR SAYS Dr MAHATHIR

All the govt resources need to be diverted to fight the Reds for quick victory 13



By CHEONG MEI SUI: Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.

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**T**HE Government must channel all its resources to fight the communist terrorists to ensure the quickest possible victory against them, Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

In doing so, the people's needs would have to take a lower priority, he added. He was speaking at the joint opening of the Umno Youth and Umno Wanita annual assemblies at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

to sacrifice their less important needs.

## Selfish men

And a quick victory would mean that the Government would be able to concentrate on the people's requirements that much faster.

Dr. Mahathir spoke of the importance for Umno leaders to really understand their role and responsibilities and said:

"It is better to be crushed in safeguarding the interests of Umno and the nation than to

be popular in leading the way to disaster.

"Let others be popular because popularity which comes cheaply and easily is temporary. Ultimately, success goes to those who are steadfast in goodness and in truth."

He said the latter type of leadership is all the more vital at this time when the country is facing the communist threat.

He added: "To achieve the quickest possible victory, all energy and financial resources must be channelled to the people's war which we

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# MAHATHIR: NO PLACE FOR OPPORTUNISTS IN UMNO

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Dr. Mahathir, who is Umno vice-president, said Umno leaders were prepared to sacrifice popularity in saving Malaysia from falling into the hands of the communists.

The people, he added, had since independence enjoyed the benefits of the various development efforts.

"They are provided with not only the important facilities such as schools and clinics, but also community halls which ultimately are used as goat-sheds or allowed to become dilapidated and used for purposes other than what it was intended for."

In view of the fact that facilities were easily available, the people were not accustomed to be patient while the Government's energy and financial resources were directed towards the war against the enemy.

They would continue to make demands despite the fact that the country is at war.

"Whoever tries to change their attitude will not be popular," Dr. Mahathir added.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the present circumstances posed a leadership test for Umno members.

He asked: "Are we prepared to become unpopular because we are aware that the war against the communists is more important or do we give priority to our own popularity although the result might be to the detriment of the nation?"

He has no doubt that for certain other leaders, their priority was popularity. They would deli-

berately make an issue of the people's needs and highlight their frustrations merely to attract attention and gather support for themselves.

"But for Umno leaders, our task and responsibility are clear. We do not want popularity for popularity's sake.

are launching. Energy and money for the war means the people's other needs have to come down in priority."

Dr. Mahathir referred to a New Straits Times report of a speech by him in Perak two weeks ago which quoted him as saying that "The war against the communists is not just a class war, but also an ideological war."

He said this was a distortion because he had actually stated that "The war against the communists is not a class war, but is an ideological war."

The Deputy Prime Minister told the Youth and the Wanita that as society leaders they must understand their role and duty.

He said one school of thought accepted by a group was that leaders

were those who merely voiced and championed the views and aspirations of the people.

Whether the views were good or otherwise was not questioned. The possibility that some of the people's views and demands could destroy society itself was also not taken into account.

This group was prepared to champion whatever demands the people make because in doing so they could become popular.

Dr. Mahathir added that this type of leaders would also keep quiet on any unhealthy practice — because in opposing it they would be unpopular.

"This type of people are actually not leaders. They are opportunists who are only working for their own selfish ends. They do not care what will happen to society..."

Dr. Mahathir said this

group was also not willing to face difficulties for the common good. They only wanted the easy way out.

Such attitude, he added, had no place among leaders at all levels of Umno.

He said as responsible leaders from a responsible party, Umno leaders must help shape the views of the people to ensure that there are no undesirable consequences although this effort would make them unpopular.

A leader should not only follow the wishes of the people but should also shape their views and attitudes towards their good and that of society.

He added that a great part of the failure of the Malays in various fields was caused by leaders who gave priority just to popularity.