

# Do not rely on others for funds, Mahathir tells Umno

N.S.T. - 3 MAY 1977

KULIM, Mon. — Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed called on Umno members today to be self-reliant and not to depend on others for contributions.

Dr. Mahathir said this would ensure that Umno would not be obligated to anybody.

He said at the opening of the Padang Serai Umno Division delegates' meeting at Sekolah Sultan Badlishah, he believed Umno members could raise sufficient fund among themselves.

If every member were to contribute \$1 a month, he said, there would be enough funds for the party's various activities.

Assuming that the 300,000 to 400,000 Umno members contributed a \$1 each, this would work out to \$3.6 million a year or \$18 million in five years which would also ensure sufficient funds for the elections.

Dr. Mahathir believed every member could afford to contribute the monthly \$1 if he or she really wanted to.

He said Umno could, if it wanted to, get donations from others, and in fact there were people who would like to contribute, but this would only weaken the party.

Umno members should instead stand on their own feet. "History has shown that those who

depended on others had fallen in the end," Dr. Mahathir said.

He also stressed the importance of strengthening and safeguarding party unity.

He advised members to study carefully before taking any action which might create disunity.

The Umno and the Government were inter-related, he said. If one was weak then the other would also be so.

He said Umno had brought about many developments since independence — much more than would have been achieved by the colonial rulers.

Proof of this could be seen all round. Dr. Mahathir said that on his way by helicopter from Alor Star to Kulim this morning, he could see signs of many development projects.

Dr. Mahathir, accompanied by Kedah Menteri Besar Dato Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin, was escorted by about 50 Umno Youth motor-cycle outriders to the school hall after landing at the Kulim padang.

He was given a traditional kompang and bunga manggar welcome. About 300 members attended the meeting. Among those present were national Umno publicity chief Haji Sulaiman Palestin and senior State Executive Councillor Haji Mohamed Muslim bin Haji Othman.