

Umno also needs others' support, says

Mahathir

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Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed) said today the Umno does not rely on its members alone for its survival.

"We must bear in mind that Umno does not rely on its members alone for its survival but also on non-members who sympathise with the principles of the party and those who voted for the party because it ran a just form of government," he said.

He said Umno had been following closely the system of government in other countries where the ruling party merely looked after the interests of its own members.

Quite often such parties were toppled by the people who were disillusioned because the government had not kept its promises of justice and equality, he said at the Umno Kuantan division annual meeting.

"We have benefitted from this in that we realise that a political party cannot survive if it caters for the interests of its members only," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there had been instances when Umno insiders had asked their leaders to place the interest of the party and its members above everything else.

"This is a short-sighted move which could not be entertained by the Government," he said.

On democracy in Umno, he said members had every right to speak out on any issue but this should only be done during proper party meetings.

"If a person's suggestion was rejected by a majority according to the principles of democracy, then he should accept the results," he said.

"He should not resort to unorthodox tactics like the distribution of unsigned pamphlets."

He added that pamphlets distributed to party leaders must bear the signature of the author.