

# Mahathir is new president

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today officially declared Umno Malaysia's fifth president to succeed Datuk Hussein Onn who did not contest in the party elections.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was returned unopposed to the post when nominations closed on June 9.

Umno permanent chairman, Datuk Haji

Sulaiman Ninam Shah, made the official declaration at the close of today's session of the three-day Umno General Assembly at the Nirwana ballroom of Hilton Hotel here.

The announcement was met with applause from delegates present.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, 56, who was once sacked from the party on disciplinary grounds, is certain to take over the rein of the Government when the Prime Minister retires, probably next month.

He entered politics at the age of 20, and during the past 36 years he had proven himself to be a dedicated, sincere and able leader.

Datuk Hussein, when naming the doctor from Kedah as his deputy in 1976, said: "I will try my

best to shoulder the heavy responsibility for the benefit of the people and the nation."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir has fulfilled his pledge — he is now known as a pragmatic, straight forward firm but Just leader.

In the international field, he had succeeded in reviving the confidence of the foreign investors in the investment climate in the country.

Today, Malaysia is flooded with applications from foreign investors to set up industries.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is popularly known as "Doktor Umno" in his hometown, Alor Star.

He received his early education at the Seberang Perak Malay school and later went

to the Sultan Abdul Hamid College in Alor Star.

On completion of his secondary education he went to the University of Malaya in Singapore where he obtained his MBBS degree.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir served as a medical officer in Kedah and Perlis before resigning from the government in 1957 to

set up private practice.

His experiences during the Japanese and British rule made him realise the importance of political struggle.

His political activities started in 1945 when he joined a number of organisations, including Seberkas, Kesatuan Kedah, Kesatuan Pemuda Melayu Kedah, before entering Umno.

His leadership was tested when he was expelled from Umno in 1969. He was re-admitted into the party later by the late Tun Razak and has never look back since.

With sheer dedication and sincerity, this son of an English school teacher managed to regain confidence of the party.

No one can deny that his leadership was accepted by the people and, because of this, his return to Umno was a historic occasion.

The future Prime Minister wants a re-structured Malaysian society in which the bumiputras have a more meaningful place in their own land.

He is determined to eradicate poverty, particularly among the rural people, and create unity through the use

of a single language, Bahasa Malaysia.

These views of his are, now accepted by society. In fact, his idea of establishing a padi plantation to make the smallholder industry more profitable is now reality. — Bernama.