

# Dr M: Stand

24 May 1981

# for both posts

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he has advised contenders for the Umno deputy president's post to also accept nominations for vice-president.

He added that this would ensure that the unsuccessful contender secures a seat in the Umno Supreme Council.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this with reference to an expected contest for the deputy presidency between Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and Datuk Musa Hitam.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Bumiputra House Buyers' Association here today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that, as in his case, he has also not withdrawn his candidacy for the deputy president's post although he has been nominated for the presidency.

"Should there be a contest for the presidency and I cannot serve as a president, the deputy president's post will even be all right," he added.

"However, if the post of president is uncontested, then it is pointless for me to contest for the deputy presidency. We will see on June 9."

## Close ranks

Asked whether his advice to the contenders was for reasons that the party could not afford to lose any of the leaders, he said that it was not a question of whether Umno could or could not afford.

He stressed that it was more that the party would need the services of all Umno members for as long as possible.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also expressed optimism that party members would be able to close ranks after the election to the Supreme Council.

He added that Umno members had on numerous occasions demonstrated this unique quality of closing ranks after any intra-party tension.

He recalled that before his expulsion from the party previously, members had threatened to leave the fold but this did not happen with his expulsion.

This, he added, only indicated the members' allegiance to the party and their ability to close ranks.

Earlier, in ALOR STAR, the Deputy Prime Minister reminded candidates who wished to contest for posts in Umno not to make use of Government machinery and powers for their own interests.

He said Government machinery could only be used for the people's interest and not for party or individual interest.

He added that candidates contesting party posts must use the machinery provided by the party to obtain support.

Opening the Kuala Kedah Umno division conference, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he did not wish to see anyone making use of Government machinery for his own interest.

## His regret

He expressed regret that some quarters were seeking favours from leaders contesting top posts in the party if those leaders wanted their support.

He said this should not be done as it would lead to corruption.

He urged Umno members not to let Datuk Hussein Onn down by shattering the confidence he has in Umno's maturity in electing party leaders.

"We should not disappoint him by creating various issues over the party's leadership," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Datuk Hussein was fully confident that Umno members were wise and mature enough in electing their leaders.

Knowing this, he added, Datuk Hussein announced his intention recently to step down as

Umno president and the country's Prime Minister.

According to him, Datuk Hussein felt that it was the most suitable time for him to make the announcement — before the coming Umno General Assembly.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was confident that Umno members would not be influenced by emotions and immature thinking in the election.

He added that they should put the interest of the party and the country's future above their self-interest in deciding the candidates for the various party posts.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded them that in campaigns for their candidates, they should not resort to tactics which could be exploited by opposition parties.

They should not blackmail or threaten the party or the Government in ensuring victory for their candidate.

According to him, it was important that

Umno members ensured a smooth process in the election.

"The Umno general election is an example to component parties in the National Front and the Government," he said.

He added that a successful election would ensure continued stability in the party and Government resulting in greater respect from political friends and foes.

He also reminded them that the Government's success would greatly depend on Umno's ability to strengthen the party.