

Some factions in Umno still not satisfied

QUESTION: Perhaps one of the biggest things, if not the biggest, that has happened in your first year of office has been a resounding electoral victory. Are there elements in that victory about which you have some regrets? And what are the aspects of the victory which have given you a lot of satisfaction?

ANSWER: I can't regret a victory. I wanted to win. I have no regrets over anybody winning. It is good that they should win.

Q: The results from Sabah and Sarawak are supposed to have been bad.

A: Then I am not happy of course. I said victory. Where we are victorious, I am happy. Where we are not victorious, I am not happy.

Q: You are victorious in Sabah and Sarawak, but not to the extent that you had hoped. Doesn't that make you unhappy?

A: Well, where we lost, I was not happy.

Q: But in Sabah the problems between Berjaya and Usno, and the fact that Berjaya openly put its independent candidates against the other, did that make you unhappy?

A: Well, this was very regrettable. As you know, I made the right allocation of seats with no room for any independent can-

didate. But I am told that this was not followed. So it is to be regretted. It seems to have happened in Sarawak too, and I believe to a certain extent it also happened here.

Q: In the case of Sabah and Sarawak, Sabah in particular, the leaders had always claimed a very good relationship with you. What is the reaction to that now? Do they still have that relationship or not? Even though they have not totally fulfilled what you requested of them?

A: Well, I think the relationship is still good. I don't see any bad feelings

Q: What about the resignation of Datuk Jalal as Johore ecco member and the protest movement by the Batu Pahat Umno Division?

A: We have yet to assess the situation there but we must bear in mind that in Umno one does not win (an election) solely on account of personal popularity. The victory is also because of the party. Umno is a national and not a local party. Any faction thinking that Umno is a local party is bound to fail.

Q: There is a rule in Umno that a person has

AFTER THE ELECTIONS

but they know my feelings about the independents.

Q: Has Umno sufficiently recovered from the disappointments of some of its members and their supporters for not having been selected and some of them on being selected and elected not getting office?

A: Now I think we have largely recovered but there may still be some factions who are not satisfied. As far as we are aware, this dissatisfaction is not too visible. At least there is no protest or demonstration.

to be a member of a division for at least five years before he can be nominated to contest an election. But in many cases, outside candidates were selected.

A: This is not the decision of the Supreme Council but that of the General Assembly. We, however, do not specify that one has to be a member of the division for which an election is being held to be eligible for nomination. A candidate can be a member of a division in Johore yet be nominated to contest in, say, Kubang Pasu.

FOREIGN COMPANIES

More are willing to comply with NEP

QUESTION: Most old established foreign companies have already been Malaysianised or partially Malaysianised. What about extending this process to post-independent foreign industrial companies in many of which the present shareholding is nowhere near 30, 40, 50 ratio prescribed in the NEP.

ANSWER: Well, the NEP targets are global (for the corporate sector as a whole) — as has been explained many, many times before. Therefore, when you acquire 100 per cent of Guthrie's for example, it is equivalent to having 30 per cent in some three huge companies of the size of Guthrie. So we will have achieved our new economic policy objectives to that ex-

tent. So there may be some companies which will not be Malaysian-owned, which may even be 100 per cent foreign-owned. This is permissible in terms of the new economic policy. But we must always restrain ourselves from wanting everything for it could mean that in the end you will get nothing. If you keep on trying to grab everything for yourself, people will just not come here. So what will we get? We will get nothing. So let's deal with this question very reasonably. Most of these companies are willing to comply with NEP in one respect or another. Maybe employment, maybe technology transfer or whatever. And I think that is good enough for us, let's not try to take everything for ourselves.

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad celebrates his first anniversary as Prime Minister today offering the assurance that not all foreign companies will need to be restructured.

The NEP objective, he emphasises, is global. "Acquiring Guthrie is as good as acquiring 30 per cent in three companies," he said.

In an interview with a group of local journalists, in which *Business Times* was represented by **A. KADIR JASIN**, Dr Mahathir spoke of the benefit of investing during a period when the economy is in a trough.

He also gave his views on other issues including the "Look East" policy and people who commit corruption under the shelter of the law.