

# Door to Umno membership open — Dr M

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BANTING, Sun.— The door to Umno membership is open to those who believe in the party's struggle and its aim of uniting Islam and Malays in the country, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today.

He said Umno will, however, not issue formal invitation cards to party membership, and those wishing to join must show their commitment by doing so of their own accord.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said Malays were still weak in the economic sector and have

not reached a satisfactory level of progress yet.

He said government policies were directed towards ensuring that Malays had an equitable share of the country's wealth, but the Malays themselves must be united if they want to progress.

## Mature

Umno, he said, does not belong to anybody in particular but to all Malays. But the party has no place for those who place self-interest above those of the party and join just to seek positions.

He was opening the

Kuala Langat Umno division meeting at Teluk Datuk here.

Referring to Pas, he said Umno could do without those who had lost their sense of direction. Pas, he said, had made an enemy of Umno and used Islam against Umno, and the actions of the party's leaders had only resulted in confusion among its members.

He said although Pas was no longer in the Barisan Nasional the invitation to Pas members to join Umno was still open.

He said when Pas was previously offered partnership in the Barisan Nasional and allowed to

stand in constituencies outside its power base, its response was to use government resources to form Pas centres and to find ways to weaken Umno.

Umno, he said, was formed to protect Malay rights and its first major struggle was the opposition to the formation of the Malayan Union in 1946.

Although it succeeded, and was also later successful in the struggle for independence, this struggle should be viewed as a continuing and lasting one.

It is with this perseverance that the Malays will be able to determine their own future and destiny, he said.

Umno, unlike some other parties, has not been divided by party elections. Despite serious campaigning for positions, like in last year's general assembly, mature thinking prevailed.

The party's leaders have shown that they do not want to hold on to leadership forever, but consider Umno's needs and strengths and withdraw if necessary.

Datuk Seri Dr

Mahathir called on Malays to venture into the business field after acquiring the necessary knowledge and training.

Business, he said was a respected field which had scope for honest, dedicated businessmen to succeed.

He added that the emphasis must always be on the quality of goods and services provided and added that the nation must also develop recognition for this internationally.