

# PM WARNS AGAINST WANING MALAY POLITICAL INTEREST

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THE Prime Minister warned today that a waning of Malay interest in politics will adversely affect Umno's strength and role as the backbone of the Government.

It was important for all Umno leaders and members to always keep this interest alive so that Malays would continue to retain their political power in the country.

Opening the Selangor Umno convention at the Selayang Community Hall, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded that the Malay Resolve to achieve their cause through the political forum had enabled Umno to become the pillar of the Government ever since Merdeka.

"Mere numerical strength without a corresponding commitment in politics will not bring any effect."

Datuk Ser Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno Malaysia President, hoped Malay politics would not be impaired by lack of political interest, "otherwise our power will slip out of our hand."

He stressed that Umno did not seek power as an end in itself but as means to an end, which is promoting the interests of the Malays.

"We do not want power for its own sake but only as a means for maintaining our position."

It was not Umno's purpose to aspire for a supreme position but only for a station that was its proper due.

Since Merdeka, Malays had proven they were not greedy or power-crazy, but only desirous of achieving equality with the other communities so that they would not become "slaves" in their own country.

The Prime Minister

**KUALA LUMPUR,  
Saturday**

asserted that despite the number of political parties opening membership to Malays, it was an acknowledged fact that Umno was the only party that truly promoted the cause and interests of the Malays.

He urged Umno leaders and members to intensify efforts to induct the young in the spirit of the party's struggles.

Emergence of an echelon to succeed the present ranks would ensure continuity of the cause.

He also explained the necessity for keeping secret

strategies to reinforce the position of the party for fear of the knowledge falling into the hands of its enemies.

Open discussion of the strategies would be dangerous to the strength and position of the party as it would give the party's enemies the opportunity to plan countermeasures.

However, this necessity had not been taken seriously and there were instances when matters discussed in the Prime Minister's office were made public knowledge.

"Sometimes, decisions

taken by the government were leaked to the press even before I was informed," he said.

Expressing disappointment with this state of affairs, he said it showed the Malay community had become "sophisticated" in the breaking of secrets.

The Prime Minister's tongue-in-cheek statement was greeted with laughter by delegates present.

Nevertheless, he pressed the point, urging Umno members and leaders to be careful not to reveal information that could be used against the party and

government.

On the election of leaders of the Umno Youth and Wanita Umno movements, he reminded members not to allow the contest to impair party solidarity.

Earlier, Selangor Umno liaison chief Datuk Haji Ahmad Razali Ali said the number of Umno branches in the state this year increased to 458 with 105,328 members, compared with 446 branches with 99,903 members last year.

The performance would improve under the dynamic 2M leadership, he believed.