

# Mahathir tells why council has the say

NST 13 SEP 1982

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ reiterated today that the Umno Supreme Council has the right to determine the Umno candidate for any State or Parliamentary seat.

He said it was not possible for the whole Supreme Council to visit all 114 Umno divisions and discuss with their com-

mittees the choice of candidates, as was suggested by the delegate from Tanjung Karang on Friday.

The Umno president was replying to points raised during the debate on the five resolutions tabled at the 33rd Umno General Assembly which ended today.

"The freedom," he said, "is given to the Supreme Council for specific reasons. We know that

not everything goes on smoothly at the divisions. Politicking at division level can be bigger than at the national level."

"Here, you dare to criticise me. But there are some division leaders who are also wakil rakyat and are so powerful that no one in their division dare criticise them," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said amidst loud cheers from the delegates.

"That is why we have to be careful in the selection of candidates." He said although the divisions were allowed to submit two or three names for nomination, the Supreme Council did not necessarily have to pick the name on top or any name at all from the list given.

## Downfall

If the divisions had the final say in the selection

of candidates, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was certain that one year before the elections, no work would be done by the divisions other than campaigns to become wakil rakyat.

"This will only lead to disunity and the downfall of Umno," he said as the delegates shouted, "agreed, agreed."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said the appointment of the Umno deputy president and vice-presidents to take charge of one or two States before the elections was to ensure that discussions were held with the States before the names of likely candidates were brought forward to the Supreme Council.

## Message

This, he said, was within the provisions of the Umno constitution

which required that the selection of candidates be discussed with the division committees.

On a delegate's complaint that civil servants were not implementing or supporting Umno policies, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was not fair to lump them all together as the majority of government servants not only followed government policy, but were even sympathetic to Umno.

They give Umno their co-operation, he said, and it was not wise to have a confrontational attitude with a group of people that has a force of 760,000 members.

"Without co-operation from the government servants, Umno policies and programmes cannot be implemented smoothly. Those who don't co-operate are only a few," he said.

Reiterating his favourite message, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir exhorted everyone to work hard and to accept change.

"There is a solution to every problem if we are willing to do this," he said.