

Abide by party consensus

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—says Dr M

By NOR HAWA YUNUS
KUALA TERENGGANU,
Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged Umno members to abide by a consensus even if they may not agree with a decision.

Delegates meetings, he said, should be used as a forum to thrash out differing views but individuals with opposing viewpoints must compromise with the resolution of the majority.

"In democracy, one must abide by the decision of the majority, even though one might not personally agree with it; then we can meet challenges and make it difficult for others to exploit us," he said.

Speaking at the Kuala Terengganu division delegates meeting here, the

Prime Minister who is also Umno president stressed that party solidarity was important in view of the current pressures imposed by a certain political party using Islam as an issue to split the Muslims and Umno.

Describing this party as "power hungry", he said it is out to disunite the Malays and weaken the Muslims, even when Islam now has a place in the country and Malays have the political power.

"Before independence, this group of people did not exist because they did not have the opportunity to acquire power for their own personal gains.

"Now that the position of the Malays is more secure, they want the political power to enhance their position and use Islam to influence a section of the people and split the Malays."

He expressed regret that when the Malays have the political power, they have to oppose one another.

"We therefore cannot achieve total

success in our objectives and efforts to create more opportunities for the Malays in the economic sector, and secure our political position because our attention is being diverted by these people."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the tactics employed by this political party have worsened with time so that they even ousted their own leader whose struggles they claim did not correspond with theirs.

This, he said, reflected that the young guards were impatient and hungry for power.

He said this party is now focusing its attention on Terengganu because the State is rich in oil.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this party never bothered about Terengganu when it "was poor."

"Now that the State is rich, they want to govern the State, as they can use the funds for their own political gains. The present Barisan Nasional Government on the other hand, used the funds for

projects that will benefit the people."

He urged the Malays there to close ranks so that this party would not achieve its objectives.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this party also opposed Government policies like the Look East for the sake of opposing because they want to confuse the Malays and then disunite them.

"They even oppose us hosting the recent Palestinian conference because they said the Palestinians are not setting up an Islamic State," he said.

He said the Government in formulating policies wants the Bumiputeras to be on par with the non-Bumiputeras and Malaysia to be on an equal footing with other countries.

"This is not being arrogant; we know that if we are weak we will be suppressed by others. We must develop our strength so that we can defend ourselves," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also urged Umno members there to put aside their differences for the sake of party solidarity.

"If we are united other parties cannot exploit us," he added.