

# PM RAPS UMNO 'REBELS'

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By BACHAN SINGH

**BAGAN DATOH, Sun. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad hit out today at Umno members who allow themselves to be influenced by the party's enemies and are now acting against the party's interest.**

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said there were people who

had been trying to weaken the party.

"They say for instance that Umno wants to set up a republic and do away with parliamentary democracy.

"I would like to stress that Umno holds firm to the system being practised now — a constitutional monarchy," he said at the opening of a community hall in Selekoh, 16km from here.

There were, however, some people who wanted to confuse the people, he said, and it had reached a point where some Umno members had allowed themselves to be influenced.

These members, he said, were now "taking part" in activities which were against the party. He did not name the people he was referring to.

"This is what we wish to do but our enemies have tried to deceive the people by saying that we wish to set up a republic."

The Prime Minister said he had received a memorandum from PAS protesting against the amendments to the Constitution.

He said these same people were against the Constitution as a whole and wanted to replace it with one based on Islam.

He said PAS wanted to set up a republic and have a presidential system.

"The reason why we want power to be vested in Parliament is because Parliament is chosen by the rakyat and will voice the rakyat's wishes.

His speech was interrupted numerous times by loud applause and shouts of "Merdeka" and "Kami mahu Mahathir." Many of those present were carrying banners expressing support for the Government while others were carrying portraits of the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that under the present system, the rakyat's representatives run the country and were responsible to the rakyat.

During the general elections, he said, the people "interview" the Government and ask what it had done while it was in power.

"We should be aware that the destiny of the country is not in the hands of people who are not responsible to the rakyat," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Umno and Barisan Nasional represented the rakyat and as such, it was their responsibility to provide whatever the rakyat wanted.

"The allocations that we have for development come from the efforts of the rakyat. The Government itself does not have money. It does not print money everyday."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said because it was the rakyat who paid the taxes "and not other people," it was the rakyat which had the right to get the benefits of development.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Constitution had to be amended from time to time to ensure that the people were not confused or misunderstood a certain issue.

"Parliament will ensure that whatever it does is for the good of the people. There is no other way, there is no other system to ensure that the people live happily," he said.

He said a dictatorial system or an oligarchy could not be a substitute for parliamentary democracy.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was proud of the support given to Umno and the Barisan Nasional, and for the Governments the party had set up.

"We chose these Governments, it is our right to decide the fate of these Governments," he said.

The Prime Minister reiterated that he would serve as long as he was wanted.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Siti Hasmah were earlier greeted

on arrival by Perak Menteri Besar Encik Ramli Ngah Talik, State Executive Councillors and leaders of the Umno liaison committees of Perak and Selangor.

The Prime Minister's delegation included Umno secretary-general Datuk Haji Mustafa Jabar, Umno

Youth leader Encik Anwar Ibrahim, MCA acting deputy president Datuk Mak Hon Kam and Public Enterprises Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz.