

Dr M: Build, not wreck, the party

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By NST

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.

(Datuk Seri Dr Ma-

hathir Mohamad today

spoke of the dangers

of becoming too obsessed

with power to the extent

of undermining Umno's

unity.

He urged members not

to think too much about

plans for the 1987 party

elections.

The 1984 party elec-

tions are just over and

members should concen-

trate on efforts to build

the party, not wreck it.

"The next party elec-

tion could coincide with

the nation's general elec-

tion and if we lose our

bearing we could end up

winning posts in a van-

quished party," he said.

"In campaigning to ac-

quire Party positions, we

could forget our roles,

and responsibilities to

the nation."

He added that if one is

so obsessed to hold woo

power, he could join any

one of the non-ruling par-

ties.

Dr Mahathir expressed

"And if he is obsessed his

with becoming a presi-

dent, he could just set up

his own party where he

can be the president and

his few henchmen make

up the committee.

"We can help them re-

gister parties," he said.

Dr Mahathir in wind-

ing up the debate before

the assembly was ad-

journing this evening

stressed that the party

could not deviate from

its original objectives.

hathir said it was not

cause of the small party

number of delegates re-

presenting the State

"It should prevail as

Malacca has four over

divisions, yet it has three

representatives in the

general assembly this

year had been a discl-

ined one.

"This is another vic-

tor for Umno as prior

I had heard rumours

that all sorts of things

would happen during

the assembly.

"But we have shown to

the world that we have

responsible party mem-

bers.

"That was why the

did not and that is the

spirit of Umno," he said.

He stressed that in any

dress was Umno as a re-

The Prime Minister

also urged members to

ensure Umno did not de-

viate from its original ob-

jectives and policies.

"Members must strive

hard to ensure the party

remains strong and to

the support of others

in general elections."

On the party elections,

Dr Mahathir expressed

his satisfaction will, the

outcome.

"The delegates have

shown their maturity in

making their choice.

"They gave emphasis

not only in the interest of

the respective States but

also the ability of the

leaders and the blending

of the old guards and the

young blood."

On the question of the

Perlis Menteri Besar not

getting elected to the State

Council, Dr Ma-

hathir said it was not

the ultimate

priority should be the

individual and not the

number of delegates re-

presenting the State

"I personally would not

be hurt if anyone takes

over from me, but I do

not want to see Umno be-

ingled away from its ori-

ginal objectives."

Dr Mahathir noted the

pledge from Umno Ke-

lantan to fully support

his leadership.

"I admit that I once

had reservations over

Umno Kelantan after

noting that some of its

members had joined Pasoo."

He also said he was

convinced that Umno

members were prepared

to demonstrate against

the Government.

"I am confident now

members were prepared

that this will not happen

to "ganyang" (crush)

in the future, not only

in those who oppose Umno.