

# Umno must defend its rights: Dr M

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KEPALA BATAS, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Umno was not out to oppress anyone but everyone should realise that it was vital for the party to achieve its objectives.

He urged every Umno member to stand up and defend the party's rights in the face of the Pas onslaught. Umno, must operate actively to safeguard the Malay position.

Speaking at the opening of the Bumiputera Entrepreneurs Expo at the Bank Persatuan Padang, Dr Mahathir said Umno members, as a group of responsible people, must hold fast to the true teachings of Islam.

He criticised Pas leaders who deliberately planned a gathering at the same time to prevent their supporters from attending the opening of the expo.

## Advice

It is believed that Haji Hadi Awang was addressing a gathering at Bukit Mertajam this morning.

Dr Mahathir said Pas leaders were irresponsible and not God-fearing as they dared to twist and deliberately misinterpret the true teachings of the Quran.

"We do not say they are *kafirs* but within Islam they are already *munafik* due to their own actions," he

said.

Dr Mahathir described Pas leaders as "power-crazy people who were ruled by their emotions".

Dr Mahathir said Umno could not compromise with such people who had caused disunity within the community.

"If Umno is weak, the Government and the country will also be weak."

The Prime Minister said it was only right that Bumiputeras develop their economy to ensure that they were not left behind.

He advised Bumiputera businessmen to think big as bigger companies had more potential, could withstand losses for a longer period and could afford advertising and better packaging.

Leaders and Government officers should also discard the negative attitude that Bumiputeras could not succeed in business.

Chief Minister Dr Lim Chong Eu said the people should realise that the integration of the Bumiputera community into the economic activities of the State was a basic commitment.

He said it should be realised that in development, priorities of social and economic development to ensure growth and stability must be understood by all.

"Without growth, peace and stability, nothing meaningful can be achieved," he said.