

'Money politics' will destroy Umno: PM

5 17 MAY 1985
P

PETALING JAYA, Thurs.— Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that he would not be able to stop "money politics" in Umno if members allowed themselves to be influenced by money.

He said if this trend was to continue, Umno would be destroyed.

"Umno members must reject people who use money to get positions in the party.

"If people who stand for election find that money cannot be used as a ladder to climb up in politics, money politics will not continue," the Umno president said in an exclusive interview with *Utusan Malaysia* yesterday.

He added that he was paying serious attention to the use of money by members to grab party posts.

Asked whether it was because of the belief that division heads would be elected MPs that had resulted in some people who were willing to pay out large sums of

money to grab party posts, Dr Mahathir said:

"It is not necessary that a division head will be elected an MP."

He then referred to speeches delivered at the recent Ampang division delegates' meeting where there were candidates who thought that if they became the division head, their chances of becoming a Minister, an MP or a State Exco member was brighter.

"This assumption is wrong. The leadership decides on candidates based on certain evaluations," he said.

Dr Mahathir said no country could wipe out corruption if its people allowed it.

He then related his own experience when he took action against someone who was corrupt.

"One of his supporters wholeheartedly defended his corruption because he had previously obtained the person's help to get a bank loan.

"This kind of thinking helps money politics to continue in the party and will destroy the party and also the person," he said.

On the inclination of Umno members to bring party conflicts to court, Dr Mahathir said: "I oppose this practice.

"Party crisis should be settled within the party through party machinery. Any decision, regardless of whether it is good or bad, must be accepted.

"If all party cases are brought to court, what will happen to the party?"