

Ensure Umno remains strong; Dr M

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KUALA KRAI, Fri. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Umno members to maintain the spirit of struggle to ensure that the party remains strong.

He said they must also be alert to new challenges facing the party.

This was the only way they could prevent the party from following in the footsteps of political parties in other countries which survived only until their country achieved independence and fell apart soon after.

He said these parties had been destroyed because they faced numerous obstacles, including spiritual decay, after independence.

He was speaking to Umno members and supporters at the opening of the Kuala Krai Umno division meeting today.

The Umno president also said that self-interest had tended to creep in and weaken the spirit of members and this had been the cause of the death of many political parties in the past.

He warned that if Umno members allowed themselves to be guided by self-interest they would weaken Umno and destroy it.

He reminded Umno members they must forsake self-interest for the sake of the party.

He said that the first sign of spiritual decay could be in the form of regional thinking and this would be followed by the emergence of self-interest which could cause the members to cast aside national interest.

He said that those who struggled for self-interest forgot that leaders of political parties existed because of the party and not vice versa.

He said that there were indications that some members, who were born after Malaysia had achieved its independence, were showing signs of spiritual weakness which could lead to the emergence of self-interest.

Umno could achieve its aims if its members continued their struggles with dedication and "in full spirit."

He reminded the Malays that if they wanted to achieve the level of progress which had been achieved by other advanced countries they must fully utilise what they have been endowed with.

Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, Menteri Besar, Datuk Haji Mohamed Yaacob, Deputy Menteri Besar, Datuk Haji Ariffin Said, Deputy Information Minister, Kassim Ahmad, Kuala Krai Umno division leader, Datuk Dr Nik Hussein Abdul Rahman and other Umno leaders were also present.