

Dr M: We've no wish to interfere

UMNO will work with all communities if their struggles are not against the interest of the party and the country.

Umno president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also said the party wanted to see the Chinese, the second largest community here, represented in the Government.

But, he added, they should remember that:

● UMNO'S willingness to work with the Chinese should not be used as a political tool to further anyone's personal interests; and

● THE Chinese representatives in the Government should be honest and sincere, and not people who think only of their self-interests.

Dr Mahathir said the interests of the Barisan Nasional was greater than those of any of its component parties.

"Normally the Barisan does not interfere in the internal problems of any party.

"But if the problems in any component party is damaging the coalition and the party, the Barisan

Nasional will not remain quiet.

"We are always careful in whatever action we take and enough time had been given to the (MCA) party to solve its problems," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno was sad that the Barisan's efforts to solve the problem had been used by certain groups who alleged Umno was interfering in the internal affairs of a component party.

"Such allegations were made with the aim of arousing communal feelings and at the same time

making themselves (the speakers) popular," he said.

Dr Mahathir said what was worse was that the people who made such allegations were the same group who had earlier asked the Government to remove certain people, and then asked the Government to reinstate them.

"They did this because they believed that such actions would help them in their efforts to win posts in the party," he said.

In the final analysis, they wanted outside interference to determine who would lead the party.

"It is the same group today which is putting the blame on outside interference when it failed to solve the party's problems," he said.

Dr Mahathir added it was not Umno's intention to interfere in the affairs of other component parties.

"As a member of the Barisan Nasional, Umno will not allow the Barisan's strength to be un-

dermined because of the self-interests of a component party or a specific group of people," he said.

Dr Mahathir added Umno would also not allow itself to be criticised by those who had lost their influence.

He said leaders should bow to the verdict of the majority and not create issues for their self-interests.

"Leaders should not play around with rules and procedures to perpetuate themselves in power," he added.

328 SEP 1985