

'BE DEDICATED' CALL TO ALL WAKIL RAKYAT

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Umno "wakil rakyat" (people's representatives) to fully dedicate their services to the people or risk the possibility of being dropped in the next election.

He said Umno Assemblymen should be fully aware of their responsibilities towards the people who had elected them and should try as far as possible to fulfil their promises.

"For those who do not provide satisfactory services, it may be difficult for them to be re-selected as a candidate in future elections," the Prime Minister stressed.

He was speaking at the

By MANAN OSMAN

State Barisan Nasional victory celebration at Stadium Negeri yesterday evening where about 5,000 people comprising members of the Barisan Nasional component parties were present.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Umno secretary-general Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and other State dignitaries.

However, Dr Mahathir said the people should not expect too much from their representatives in view of the economic slowdown.

"If some of their promises cannot be fulfilled, they should not entirely be blamed because they too are suffering.

"The understanding and co-operation of everybody in this matter is both necessary and important so as not to worsen the situation," he said.

Courses

The Prime Minister also spoke of the need to strengthen the party by providing refresher courses to party officials and recruiting more members.

"Although the next general election will only be held in another five years, it does not mean that there is no necessity for us to strengthen the party.

"The Umno membership has to be increased

while courses for members are a necessity," he pointed out.

Dr Mahathir also said that continuous efforts should be made to foster closer rapport and co-operation with members of other component parties.

He said although the Barisan Nasional had performed above expectations in the last election, it still had to improve its performance.

The Prime Minister said the Barisan Nasional was returned to power with an overwhelming support because it was sincere in wanting to serve the people.

Pas, on the other hand, tried to solicit the support of the opposition through the formation of an electoral pact with other opposition parties, but even before the election, they had been fighting with one another.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, was earlier received on arrival at the Sultan Mahmud Airport by the Menteri Besar, State Secretary Datuk Setia Wangsa, Assemblymen and senior Government officers.

He later performed Friday prayers at the Al-Muktafi Billah Shah's Mosque before attending a closed-door meeting with State and Federal Government officers at Wisma Darul Iman.