

# Dr M: No place in Umno for leaders who use threats

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KUALA LUMPUR,

Sun. — There is no place in Umno for leaders who threaten the party and thereby compromise the interests of Umno and the Malays, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Advising all levels of the party leadership and members, the Umno chief, who is also the Prime Minister, said service to the party was not for rewards such as posts or for self-aggrandisement.

For instance, it was not possible for everyone to become elected representatives or get what they wanted for themselves.

Rather, Umno leaders should understand that their efforts would ensure the continued growth of the party to safeguard and further the interests of all Malaysians, including the Malays.

"Our party should not be threatened by leaders or members, regardless of whether they are in high positions or otherwise," Dr Mahathir said when opening the Kepong Umno divisional delegates conference at the Putra World Trade Centre.

# PM: Unity is cornerstone of the Barisan

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equal importance on party unity.

Umno, he added, had succeeded so far because of its unity.

Stressing that Umno members should revive the spirit of 1955, when the idea of forming Umno was mooted, he said: "We were able to challenge and overcome the authority of a big world power because of our unity."

"Thus, the Malays who had no wealth, education or arms, managed to oppose the colonialists' plan to form the Malayan Union."

This showed the important role unity had played in safeguarding the integrity of the Malays.

"The British won the war (Second World War) but lost when the Malays united against them. When we become aware of this (the importance of unity), we will not struggle for our own interests."

The Prime Minister said the Malays had benefited greatly since independence with more jobs and business opportunities available to them.

This was also primarily due to their unity.

Referring to the allocation of seats for the general election, Dr Mahathir urged party leaders to be pragmatic

and not be guided by emotion.

They should, therefore, look at the issue in the overall perspective.

"Umno has succeeded so far because we have used strategies (in the allocation of seats) and not because people have said that they will withdraw their support for the party if they are not nominated."

For example, he said, the Barisan Nasional, of which Umno is the senior partner, has maintained its strength since its inception because of the spirit of co-operation among its components.

Such co-operation was particularly evident in the allocation of seats.

In this respect, the Government had to think of the interests of all the races, besides giving special attention to the rural areas which had been neglected by the colonialists.

The latter had resulted in more constituencies having a Malay voter majority.

"But if we allocate seats only in terms of this, then the other races will be disappointed."

The Barisan Nasional had, thus, always decided on an equitable allocation of seats between the various parties to ensure the peace and prosperity of the country.

## Symbolic

Referring to party posts as an example, he said: "I am touched when people shout *hidup Mahathir* (during his public addresses). But Mahathir is not important. In the past there was no Mahathir, but the party was there."

The party presidency, he said, was symbolic "because a party should have a president".

Umno, thus, had a president to decide the direction the party should take.

"Don't be influenced by what people say to seek support and that includes me," the Prime Minister said, adding that Umno members should struggle for the party.

Dr Mahathir also called on Umno leaders and members to place

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