

No room for lazy in poll list: PM

JITRA, Thurs. — Umno Members of Parliament and State Assemblymen who have not measured up will be dropped from the party's list of candidates for the general election, says Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Only the hardworking ones would be retained. Dr Mahathir said when opening the Kubang Pasu Umno division delegates meeting at the Sekolah Menengah Sultan Abdul Halim, Jenan, near here this morning.

However, he added that there were probably only one or two "lazy" Umno "wakil rakyat."

"If they are lazy, I am sorry. Their services will have to end. The hardworking ones would probably be given another chance.

"This shows that Umno

has not deviated from its responsibilities to serve the people and that is one reason why it is prepared to face the people every five years," added Dr Mahathir who is also the party president.

The Prime Minister said he wanted the Barisan Nasional to win convincingly in the general election because "I do not want the Barisan Nasional to form just a Government but a strong Government.

Vulnerable

"We cannot afford anything less than a two-thirds majority.

"If we fail to achieve this we will be a weak party that can be dictated to by the Opposition.

"There are moves to deny us a two-thirds majority victory," he said, adding that he regarded people with such motives as people who did not

want peace in the country.

"People who do not want a major victory actually wish to see a weak Government," he said.

He said a Government formed with a small majority would be weak as it would be vulnerable if the other parties did not support any one policy it formulated.

He added that Barisan Nasional was not powerful but it needed a convincing victory to form a strong Government which could continue to effectively bring progress and development to the people and the country.

At the same time, the Prime Minister warned the people to be wary of "demons" and "devils".

"Sometimes these demons and devils use 'serbans' and 'jubahs' (headgear and robes) and quote religious texts.

"We must always re-

member that demons and devils can also recite verses from the Quran. But being demons and devils they only propagate bad things," he said.

He said it was the responsibility of Umno members as good Muslims to protect their Muslim brothers from falling prey to such people.

Demons

"We should enlighten our brothers on the true teachings of the religion so that they will not be influenced by these people," he said.

The Prime Minister added that these "demons" were converging on his Kubang Pasu constituency from throughout the country in a bid to unseat him in the general election.

On Umno, he said that after 40 years in existence it was no longer a party representing only the Malays but had become a national party whose struggle was for all races and whose actions were not restricted to any one area.

Dr Mahathir said that from a party that fought solely for the Malays, Umno had become a party that fought for all races, taking into consideration the interests of the other races without ignoring the interests of the Malays themselves.

"It has never neglected its responsibilities to the Malays. This is reflected in the overwhelming support it has received from them. Its membership has grown from a mere 100,000 to more than one million," he added.