

# Dr M: Ambitions behind challenge

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The challenge to the leadership in the April 24 election has nothing to do with Umno's performance or the Government policies, party president **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said.

He said the situation existed simply because "one or two persons" had big ambitions.

He said these ambitious people were responsible for encouraging others to speak against the so-called weaknesses of the party and the Government.

He said the party's performance and the Government policies were used by certain people only as an excuse to win support from the delegates.

"The contest for the leadership was not only a challenge to the party leadership, but also to Umno's tradition.

"This challenge needs serious attention from each and every Umno member," he said in an interview with Umno's official organ, *Merdeka*.

Dr Mahathir said the contest for the leadership had resulted in the formation of cliques and had soured the good relations among Umno members.

Some already harboured ill-feelings and were not on good terms with one another.

## Greater heights

The misunderstanding and ill-feelings among some Umno members, he said, had resulted in the Malays losing the respect of others.

"If such a situation continues, I fear it will affect the development of the Malay race."

He described the contest in the party election as having

been influenced by personal interests and not based on the will of Umno.

The Prime Minister said no one could blame the Government policies as they had succeeded in elevating the country's development to greater heights.

If the party leadership and the Government policies were not acceptable to the people, he said, it would be impossible for the party to score a landslide victory in the recent general election.

Dr Mahathir said his vision was to see Malaysia achieve a higher level of development compatible with developed countries.

"This is not impossible. We have seen many developing countries transforming themselves into developed countries. We have the same potential and ability," he said.

He said to achieve this, the Government must maintain the right sense of direction

and this should not be hampered by any element.

On economy, the Prime Minister said at present there were signs that the country's economy was reviving.

"About \$4,500 million of foreign investment has flowed into the country."

## World economy

He said the country's raw materials had also increased in price and demand.

"I believe the country's economy is reviving and this trend will continue, provided the world economy does not face serious recession again."

The Umno president was also not happy with the trend among the people who were either too influenced by Western culture or had adopted an extreme interpretation of Islam.

He said the Government was doing its best to cultivate values which were suitable to the present era.