

Let's be united once again: Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will now work to unite the party.

"It would be good for all Umno members if they will unite once again," he told reporters after the results were conveyed to him at his residence Sri Perdana about 10.50pm.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, Education Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Public Enterprises Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz.

On the small winning majority he obtained, he said: "I had said I would continue to serve with a majority of one. I got more than that.

"What I feel about the majority is of no consequence. What is impor-

tant is that Umno members had a proper election to make a proper decision."

Asked about a possible Cabinet reshuffle, Dr Mahathir said he was "too sleepy to answer that question. I have to think about it."

He merely laughed when asked whether there would be "major" changes in his Cabinet.

As to whether his narrow win reflected some questions the Umno members had about his leadership or whether his victory meant that the party supported his leadership despite the opposition, Dr Mahathir said it was still too early to make any analysis.

"We need time to analyse the situation and find out what the members think and obtain the necessary

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proof," he said.

Will there be any change in the style of leadership now?

"We will have to watch and see," he said, with a laugh.

As to whether he would be able to run the party effectively considering the slim majority he got, Dr Mahathir said: "I think so, I don't see why not."

He described the contest for the presidency as "like any

other contest."

Asked whether he would meet with those who had opposed him in the party to close ranks, Dr Mahathir said: "We have lots of time. This is not a Government matter." *

He expressed his satisfaction with the way the party elections were run today, with no untoward incidents.

Umno members, he said, have shown their maturity and responsibility in coming to a decision.