

PM: FUTURE OF UMNO IS BEING THREATENED

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The future of Umno is being threatened because "several members have chosen to set aside tradition and advance their own ambitions over the aspirations of the race," Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said Umno members had stuck by its philosophy all this while and this had enabled the party to bring happiness and progress to the country.

In his policy speech at the opening of the party's general assembly here, Dr Mahathir described these leaders who were setting aside tradition as "trying to embrace the mountain when their hands do not reach."

This, he said, had put the party leadership in an unenviable position where whatever it did, it would hurt someone close to it. (*Telan mati emak, luah mati bapa*).

"This problem (of choosing between two close ones) is faced by anyone who leads Umno," he said.

In his 40-minute speech, Dr Mahathir also defended the policies instituted by his administration the last six years and said the country must continue to be firm in its foreign relations.

Dr Mahathir also said that Malaysia would continue to oppose economic imperi-

alism but it would only succeed "because the fate of a race can only be determined by the people themselves."

"Even God will not change the fate of a race if it does not work to change its fate," he said.

He said Malaysia could not be selective in being firm although "it is true that as a small country, our stand will not shake the world. But a country and race with dignity will not remain silent just because it is the big powers which are committing misdeeds."

Dr Mahathir also touched on the economy and said it should not be compared with the situation in a neighbouring country.

He said while the global economic recession had affected almost all countries, "there is a neighbouring country which has registered positive growth.

"If we did not have to control the economic growth to ensure equity in the distribution of wealth, or in other words, if we want to drop the New Economic Policy, we will also register positive growth," he said.

However, he said the "NEP was our choice and we do not want positive economic growth but see bumiputras suffering in poverty."

He also said:

● **ECONOMIC** imperialism had caused Third World countries to be victimised by the western countries. Among the biggest sins committed by the western countries was depressing the price of raw materials.

He said these countries, to curb their economic ills, co-operated with rich nations to increase the value of currencies such as yen and the deutschmark. Ultimately, the Third World countries like Malaysia suffered.

● **POLITICKING** among the major powers had created distrust between the East and West bloc countries and this had resulted in a build-up of nuclear weapons causing their economy to suffer and at the same time, the world economy to deteriorate.

Again, countries which suffered most were Third World nations like Malaysia, he said.

● **MALAYSIA's** foreign policies would continue to be implemented firmly.

He said Malaysia should continue to protest against injustices and should not be cowed just because it was coming up against a major power or a rich country.

At the same time, it did not intend to make enemies out of any country, he said.

● **ECONOMY** and finance were improv-

ing and the Government had reduced its expenditure.

He said Malaysia had become the world's leading manufacturer of electronic components and its heavy industries such as the Proton Saga had great potential.

● **INDUSTRIALISTS** and small businessmen were given equal opportunities and benefits for business.

The problem now was to get quality products to meet increasing needs, he said.

● **ASSIMILATION** of Islamic values had resulted in the Government cleaning up management at all levels.

The recession had revealed unhealthy trends amongst businessmen and managers and action had been taken against those who had robbed the public.

Dr Mahathir assured that the Government would not stop at anything to ensure these crooks were brought to justice.

● **MALAYS** cannot demand respect. They have to earn it by proving that they were a race which had noble values and could succeed, he said.

He said the Malays had succeeded in politics but their endeavour in religion and economy was still unsatisfactory.

Full text of speech on Pg 14 & 15.