

'Members can be proud of their conduct'

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THE incident-free election and general assembly is proof of the maturity of Umno members, **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said yesterday.

In congratulating the members, the Prime Minister said they could be proud that the meeting was conducted smoothly and orderly.

"No one can deny that we deserve to be the backbone of the Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council was worried that undesirable events would take place and decided to place observers at Stadium Negara to witness the proceedings.

In replying to a point raised by a delegate from Selangor, he quoted how gladiators had to fight lions during the Roman Empire merely to entertain the rulers.

He also related the story of Androcles the slave and how when he was put into the arena to be fed to the lion, the animal did not want to fight with him or eat him for he remembered that the Christian had pulled out a thorn from his paw when they were free some time ago.

The life of the Christian was spared.

"Unfortunately, that is in the Aesop's Fables. In real life, when the human pulled out the thorn, the lion ate him up.

"Therefore, think twice before you pull out a thorn..." he said.

On the assimilation of Islamic values, Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted to see the people take on commendable values.

Unfortunately, many people had misinterpreted the policy and wanted it to be implemented overnight.