

# Dr M: I owe it to these Umno members

10 JUN 1987

KLANG, Tues. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today attributed his victory in the last Umno election to the members who had adhered to party principles.

Had Umno members deviated from the party's principles and philosophy, he would have been defeated, the Prime Minister told Umno members at a Hari Raya gathering organised by the Kapar Umno division and attended by about 3,000 people.

"We should strive for political stability — in this case Umno's. My victory was given me by Umno members who believe in democracy and the principles Umno stands for. Otherwise, I would have lost."

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Muhammad bin Muhammad Taib, received an ovation when he said that members should continue to adhere to the party's

principles.

He asked party leaders to unite to preserve Umno's principles and work towards achieving a better standard of living for all.

"Not many people are aware that Malaysia is one of the more fortunate countries in the world where people have enough. Many countries are not as fortunate as us."

He spoke of the unemployment situation, and said that those who were employed should consider themselves fortunate and should work harder for themselves and the country.

He urged the people to emulate the work ethics of the Japanese.

"The only way the country can prosper is if people make a concerted effort to improve their productivity — like the Japanese, the Koreans and the Taiwanese." Dr Mahathir also said that the Malaysian economy had improved with the

recent lowering of interest rates.

"The improved situation will be felt much more by Malaysians soon, but they must continue to work hard.

"To make life comfortable, people should adopt positive work ethics to help ensure a quick economic recovery."

Dr Mahathir criticised those who claimed that the economy was going from bad to worse.

He described them as "prophets of doom," and in jest added that perhaps they thought the situation was due to "a bad Prime Minister".

"But look at the low interest rates and other signs of economic recovery," he said.

Earlier on arrival at Kapar, Dr Mahathir was escorted by motorcyclists to the site of the gathering.

Later he posed for a photograph with members of the Kapar Umno division.