

# Winning through the right spirit Compromise the key: PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Party elections of Barisan Nasional components should be held in a spirit of compromise, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

This spirit of compromise was shown by 138 countries when they elected him unopposed as president of the International Conference Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Vienna.

He said that Malaysians should emulate this spirit of compromise.

Dr Mahathir was addressing a huge "people's rally" organised to welcome him home this evening.

He spoke at length on efforts by many countries before a compromise was reached to elect him unopposed as president.

"We should use this compromise (at the conference) as a guide for our elections here

"This practice of *kompromi* (compromising) is good for elections ... whether in Umno, the MCA, MIC or Gerakan.

"It was this spirit of compromise which brought about global unity (in selecting a president for the conference) and it will also bring unity to Malaysia.

## Call for stability

"We want all Barisan Nasional components to be stable so that the coalition and the country will continue to be stable."

His remarks, made towards the end of his 15-minute speech, were met with shouts of *Hidup Mahathir!* (Long Live Mahathir!), *Hidup Wira!* (Long Live Our Hero!) and *Hidup Malaysia!* (Long Live Malaysia!) from the large crowd.

Dr Mahathir said there were some people who claimed Malaysia was "unpopular" with the rest of the world.

"These people say that Malaysia is not held in high regard by other nations because of some of our policies which the world finds unacceptable, including our strict *dadah* laws," he said.

"Many organised campaigns to oppose the death sentence for *dadah* traffickers.

"In Vienna, leaders of many countries told me, at one-to-one meetings, that they supported Malaysia's capital punishment for traffickers.

"In fact, these leaders would have done the same for their own countries if not for the campaigns there.

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# 'We have many friends'

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"These leaders of nations know the evil of dadah and they know our stand is clear."

Touching on his election as ICDAIT president, he said there were two candidates for the post but, fortunately, Malaysia had many friends in the world.

"If there had been a contest, two-thirds of the countries present, including the major powers, would have supported Malaysia.

"They worked hard for a victory for Malaysia and they as-

sured us not to worry as they would support us.

"But, it is better to win without a contest through compromise so that the election will be unanimous.

"I was touched when I learnt that the countries that worked for a compromise included those from Latin America and the Caribbean.

"They too felt it was better that the election be unanimous through a compromise.

"One major Latin American country even gave way to allow the other candidate to be given a post so that he could join in the fight against dadah.

"When the Secretary-Gen-

eral of the United Nations announced the election through compromise, the applause was thunderous.

"This shows Malaysia has many friends all over the world and is not opposed by many countries as some claimed."

Dr Mahathir said that since his election he had received excellent co-operation from all the 138 countries participating in the conference.

Among the participants were Ministers from 82 countries and three Cabinet-ranking Secretaries from the United States.