

# Half of 1.4m figure will be fine: Dr M

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. — Umno will be satisfied if half the reported 1.4 million members of the old party joined, its president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

He said this was because there was no documentary evidence to show there were 1.4 million members in the old party.

There is a possibility that the actual number of members in the old party was much lower, the Prime Minister told reporters at the Sultan Mahmud Airport here before leaving for Kuala Lumpur after a two-day visit to the State.

Dr Mahathir said the divisions of the old party did not submit a true report of their membership to the headquarters.

Some divisions claimed that they had the sufficient number of members required by the party's constitution in order to send more delegates to the general assembly.

Under the old party constitution, a division must have had at least 5,000 registered members to have 11 representatives at the assembly.

Dr Mahathir said this happened during the 1982 and 1984 general assemblies.

However, he said, under the new party every member had to fill an application form which then had to be approved by the party supreme council and not the divisions as previously.

Thus the exact number of registered members can be determined.

## No incentives

Dr Mahathir also said efforts would be made to attract more professionals to join as their views would be beneficial for the development of the party. Many professionals and intellectuals are keen to join the party.

However, the party would not provide any incentives for them to join.

The Prime Minister also said Group A Government servants could join the party but could not hold any posts. However, they could still give their views to strengthen the party.