

# PM: Why strong party needed

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JITRA, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Malays of the need to have a strong political party so there will be a stable Government and national stability.

"It is meaningless to have many small but weak political parties as that will only lead to an unstable and ineffective coalition Government," he said when addressing about 1,500 teachers from north Kedah at the Jitra secondary school.

He said Umno, which had played an effective role in contributing to the strength of the Barisan Nasional Government and had enjoyed enormous support from Malays, should continue to play this role.

He said Umno had enjoyed such solid support since formation that it might be said there existed an Umno culture.

This culture had ensured the strength of the party and enabled it to become such a strong component of the Barisan Nasional that when another component left, the BN could still function.

Umno and the Barisan Nasional had ruled the country justly and well and this had made Malaysians better off than people in certain other countries.

## Second culture

He regretted this Umno culture was nearly destroyed through the action of certain frustrated members who had resorted to dirty tactics to achieve their goals.

The actions by these people would create another "culture" encompassing selfishness and dirty practices.

Dr Mahathir urged Umno members to prevent the emergence of this "second culture" because it could destroy the future of Malays.

He also called on teachers to instil self-respect among Malay students.

The Prime Minister criticised those who believed that demonstrations were necessary to achieve their goals.

This could lead to political instability and jeopardise development efforts.

He warned workers not to take action which could endanger the economy, now recovering from the recent recession.

"If they take the wrong action and the economy suffers, they will only have themselves to blame if the Government cannot increase their pay," he said.