

Join Umno, Dr M tells Semangat 46 supporters

By Rashid Bakar and Saiful Azhar Abdullah

GUA MUSANG, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on members and supporters of Semangat 46 to join Umno if they are really sincere in wanting to champion the interests of the Malays.

He said all Malays, including those who are against the present Umno leadership, were invited to join but they must be sincere to the cause of the Malays.

"Nobody should be shy or hesitant about joining Umno if they are really sincere in struggling for Malay interests," he said in Gua Musang, the parliamentary constituency of Semangat 46 leader

Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. He was opening the Gua Musang Umno delegates' meeting.

The Umno president said many leaders of the old Umno who were opposed to him had returned to the party. Among them were Datuk Musa Hitam, Datuk Shahrir Samad, Datuk Kadir Sheikh Fadzir and their supporters.

He said these people were at one time influenced by the leaders of the Semangat 46 to stay away from Umno but they had returned in the interest of Malay unity.

Some of them had even been given posts they held in the old party. "We are not jealous of them because we believe in promoting unity among the Malays," he said.

The Prime Minister, on a

two-day visit to Kelantan, later visited the State development authority (Kese-dar) headquarters where he was briefed on development projects.

Dr Mahathir, who is accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, is leading a delegation including Land and Regional Development Minister Datuk Kasitah Gadam, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sallehuddin Mohamed, and senior officials from the Prime Minister's Department.

The delegation later visited a housing site in Kampung Tiong near here where 32 squatter families have been resettled.

In his speech at the Gua Musang Umno meeting, Dr Mahathir said the people should ensure that the Barisan Nasional Gov-

ernment was strong with Umno as its backbone. They should not support the splinter group.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had enjoyed continued prosperity and progress because the Government enjoyed overwhelming support from the people. The people should continue to support the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election.

Dr Mahathir called on Kelantan Malays to reflect on what happened after the 1957 general election when the then Alliance captured all the States except Kelantan, which fell to Pas.

"Kelantan became a backward State because of

★ PLEASE TURN TO P2, cot 10

Ensure BN wins State, says MB

★ FROM PAGE ONE

18 years of Pas rule," he said.

However, there was progress after the Barisan recaptured Kelantan from Pas in 1978.

Dr Mahathir said there was no point for Pas and Semangat 46 to talk about Muslim unity when their actions spoke otherwise.

Earlier, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob told the delegates that Semangat 46 leaders had claimed that Umno and the Barisan Nasional would only win four State seats in the next general election.

"This is a challenge to all Umno leaders and members. We must start working hard from now to ensure that the Barisan Nasional wins the general election."

Gua Musang Umno leader Datuk Haji Ariffin Said said Umno in Gua Musang was getting stronger. More than 11,000 members had registered with the party.

Datuk Haji Ariffin was returned unopposed as the divisional head while Galas State Assemblyman Haji Zakaria Hassan has been made deputy head.