

# Opposition is Kecewa 87, says Mahathir

1989

KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today likened some of the Semangat 46 leaders to such characters as Si Kitol and Raja Mandaliar in Malacca history who betrayed the empire to the Portuguese when they failed to get what they wanted.

He said a more appropriate name for the party would be "Kumpulan Kecewa 87" (Frustrated Group 87) because their leaders failed to win posts in the 1987 Umno general assembly.

"By their actions, the leaders of Semangat 46 caused Umno to be declared unlawful by the court," he said when opening the delegates' conference of the Kuala Nerus Umno division and its Youth and Wanita wings at the Kolej Agama Sultan Zainal Abidin near here.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk

Dr Yusof Nor and several Umno division leaders from Terengganu were among those present.

Now, he said, this group was using deceit to confuse the Malays, including claiming that Semangat 46 was similar to Umno which was formed in 1946 under Datuk Onn Jaafar because its registration date was the same — May 11.

"Actually the records show that the Semangat 46 party was registered on May 5 and not May 11 as claimed by its leaders," he said.

The Prime Minister urged Umno members to abide by the party's regulations to ensure that it continued to be strong.

"For the sake of unity within the party we must be prepared to accept defeat in a contest. We must give support to the winner, and as losers we must close ranks and return to serving the party."

Dr Mahathir dismissed allegations that Umno was

now no longer a party that practised democracy because its supreme council had decided to advise the members to avoid contesting important posts at divisional level.

He said that with Umno in the process of revival, contests for important party posts could cause splits among the members and ultimately Umno's destruction.

He also reminded them that Umno would be facing a big test, namely the general election, which would definitely be held soon.

He urged the members to give undivided support to those selected as candidates for the general election, based on support for the party and not individuals.

He said the defeat of an Umno candidate was not the defeat of an individual but that of Umno as a whole.

Talking to reporters after the opening of the divisional meeting, Dr Ma-

hathir was confident that Barisan Nasional would retain control of Kelantan after the next general election.

He said the Semangat 46 had failed in its efforts to woo the Kelantanese Malays. All the party wanted was for Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to become the next Prime Minister.

It was to this end that the party was willing to cooperate with Umno's opponents like Pas and the DAP.

The Prime Minister also dismissed speculation that the Umno leadership in Kelantan would be changed before the next general election.

Meanwhile, in Kota Baru, Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said the people would suffer if Kelantan was run by a State Government that could not work well with the Federal Government.

He said it would be difficult for the Federal Government to help Kelantan if

the State was ruled by the Opposition.

Opening the \$2.2 million Jalan Selising-Kok Lanang road in Selising, 30km from here, he said it was pointless changing a State Government which had worked for the people.

He said that the State had seen rapid development since the BN took over from Pas in 1978.

The State had been allocated \$133 million for roads under the Fifth Malaysia Plan and was seeking a \$1.1 billion allocation for roads under the Sixth Malaysia Plan.

Encik Ghafar said 88 per cent of the people in Kelantan enjoyed power supply.

"I am confident that all the people will have power supply by the year 2000," he added.

Encik Ghafar said the Federal Government was committed to development in Kelantan.