

# Dr M. Don't imperil struggle of Malays.

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Umno members to give priority to the Malay struggle and avoid actions that could obstruct its realisation.

The Prime Minister said the party must consolidate to ensure victory for Umno and the Barisan Nasional in the general election, which is expected to be called soon.

He cautioned that because there was a lot more to be done before the Malays could compete well with other races, their fate would be bleak if they did not have a Government that was sympathetic to them.

"That is why our first priority must be to ensure the well-being of the party, not certain individuals who are contesting for posts. What is important is that the party is healthy to continue to fight for the Malay struggle," he said when he opened the Federal Territory Umno divisional delegates' conference here.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Umno president, said members must learn from events that led to the party's de-registration, noting that it came about because of contests and the aspirations of certain individuals to win the party leadership "by hook or by crook".

He said contesting posts should not be merely because democracy permits it, but for the benefits the party could derive.

"If it does not, we should not practise it," he said, stressing that members must ensure Umno's health

so that the disease it suffered before would not recur, to threaten the party's position.

The Prime Minister had likened Umno to that of a heart patient, who, after undergoing surgery had to guard his health.

Dr Mahathir said members must preserve the party's strength by avoiding contests which only caused disunity.

He told them to regard the supreme council's admonition to avoid contests as that of the advice of a doctor well-versed in party diseases.

He said contests for party posts could be held after the general election, but added that if contests had to be held, members must avoid actions that could weaken the party.

## Composition

What was imperative now, he added, was for members to unite and ensure that the party machinery was well-organised to prepare for the general election.

He said if Umno was split it could not continue its fight for the future of the Malays.

Dr Mahathir also noted that several earlier parties which had ignored the interests of the Malays and had failed to take into account the multi-racial composition of the society, had been rejected by the people.

He said Umno's moderation had proved to be acceptable while other parties like Pas and DAP which advocated the

struggle of a single race had failed to be accepted by the people.

He said Pas was beginning to realise that Umno's approach was the best and had now entered into a pact with the DAP that was clearly against the interests of the Malays.

Umno itself was selective in choosing friends and chose to be associated with those who were not its enemies and who it could hold discussions with.

Dr Mahathir said it was out of awareness of the need for such co-operation that Umno was willing to sacrifice a certain seat in the election for another component party of the Barisan Nasional to ensure a majority victory.

"In obtaining a majority, we sometimes have to sacrifice a certain constituency for a win in another constituency," he said. "We must be adept in political manipulation."

Later, opening the Balik Pulau Umno division's delegates' meeting in Penang, Dr Mahathir said the Semangat 46 group was going all out to ensure that Umno falls at the next elections.

"Although this group cannot win, it will be satisfied if the DAP and Pas triumph," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he had advised members not to contest certain posts \*within the party in order to avoid disunity as the general election will be held soon.