

# Dr M. Keep Umno's style Of succession

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MUAR, Tues. — Umno president **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said members should uphold Umno's tradition of promoting an incumbent deputy president to succeed the party leader to ensure a smooth transition of power.

Dr Mahathir said this tradition was exercised since the **days** of Tunku **Abdul Rahman**.

"There would be chaos if we choose to forget this," he said when addressing an estimated 25,000 people who attended the Johor Malay unity forum's first anniversary celebrations held here yesterday.

The Prime Minister said the challenge for the presidency in 1987 happened because this "respect for tradition" was gone.

"We must all learn from mistakes of the past and use it as a guide to ensure we do not fall victim to the same misfortune."

Dr Mahathir said the effort by Johor **Malays** to unite under the banner of the unity forum was noteworthy as it had **re-established** Johor's reputation as a sound Umno base.

"We must all not be complacent with our achievements now as past events

have shown that even this stronghold was susceptible to collapse from our own actions."

In his speech, former Prime Minister Tun **Hussein Onn** said the problems which still beset the **Malays** and Umno in Johor could only be solved if the parties involved were sincere in implementing the Johor Malay unity forum resolution in its entirety.

Tun Hussein Onn said without sincerity, all the efforts of the past year aimed at uniting the **Malays** in Johor would be fruitless.

## Status

"We knew when we first started out in forming the resolution that there would be problems in trying to implement it fully."

Tun Hussein who is also the forum adviser said it was natural that efforts towards achieving common good often faced resistance from people with personal interests.

"We must put these personal interests behind the main goal of fostering unity among **Malays**. Without unity, we will lose our political power and our status, which past leaders had worked so hard to achieve."

The Johor Malay unity forum passed a six-point

resolution which, among other things, called for the adoption of the original Umno constitution and the reinstatement of leaders elected at the de-registered party's general assembly in 1987.

Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohamad Yassin, who spoke at the same function, said the Johor Malay unity forum was aimed at uniting all **Malays** and making Umno stronger.

He said some people berated its significance by claiming that it was a "back-door" method for some former leaders to make a comeback without losing too much "face".

"We would be failing in our duty towards party objectives and all **Malays** if we stood idly by and allowed the situation to deteriorate," he said.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin said it was undeniable that the aims of the Johor Malay unity resolution had not been achieved fully.

"This does not mean that we should not go ahead and commemorate this occasion as it has special significance to all **Malays**. The celebrations must be treated as a morale-booster and serve as an incentive for the **Malays** to work harder towards **achieving** unity."