

Mahathir: Elections are fair

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IPOH, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that there is no cheating in elections in the country as proven by the number of seats won by the opposition.

He said the people were free to choose the Government and the elections were fairly conducted.

"If we are cheats, it will be impossible for the DAP to obtain the number of seats they have in Parliament," he said.

Dr Mahathir added that in the past opposition parties had even been elected to power.

"In Kelantan, Terengganu, Penang and Sabah, opposition parties once governed the states," he said.

The Prime Minister, who is on a three-day visit to Perak, said this when addressing about 3,000 government officials at Stadium Indera Mulia.

He reminded civil servants that they played an important role in national unity and should carry out their tasks responsibly.

Earlier, opening an exhibition on the history of Perak Umno at the Medan Gopeng exposition site here, Dr Mahathir said that moderation and unity had always been the crux of Umno's struggle which took into consideration the country's situation and the people's wishes.

Dr Mahathir, who wore a *Baju Melayu* and a warrior's headgear, said the people were enjoying development because of Umno's moderate policy in pursuing its struggle in the country.

"This is the way Umno brings benefit to the people and the country," he said.

The Prime Minister said those who opposed the party's struggle were arrogant and had refused to admit that they too had reaped benefits from the

Dr Mahathir said that freedom must have its limits, adding that two western countries which idolised freedom even recognised matrimony between males.

"We must not be influenced by western values about freedom," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the people should consider it fortunate that the country was peaceful and politically stable while some of its neighbours were experiencing turmoil.

"In Malaysia, we are peaceful. Our unique political system helps to forge racial harmony," he said.

"The interests of each race are protected.

"But most people have taken it for granted and are not appreciative of the system we have.

"They tend to emphasise on the country's weaknesses."

Dr Mahathir said that although the country's per capita income was one-tenth that of the United States, the people here were not badly off.

party's struggle.

He stressed that Umno members must learn from the party's history to prevent a recurrence of past mistakes.

Dr Mahathir said the position of the Malays and the rulers then were pathetic and there was no development.

He said progress was achieved as a result of Umno's struggle which stressed on unity.

He said it was this unity among the Malays and cooperation of the other races that had resulted in the surrender of the communist terrorists.

Dr Mahathir also criticised Parti Semangat 46 which he said was trying to mislead the people with regard to the spirit of 1946 and the formation of Umno.

"The spirit of 46 was not to work with PAS or the DAP as both parties did not exist then ... the only spirit which existed in 1946 was the spirit of unity, regardless of the associations or clubs the members came from," he said.