

Mahathir: Vote for the party not the person

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JOHOR BARU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on Umno members to vote for the party and not the personality in the next general election.

"It does not matter who the candidate is... members must vote for the party," the Prime Minister told reporters after addressing about 5,000 people in Pasir Gudang, about 40km from here.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional should be returned with more than two-thirds majority so that the Government would be able to carry out its functions without any hindrance.

"If we win by a simple majority, our efforts to develop the country will continually be disturbed by the opposition," he added.

Dr Mahathir also criticised DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang for saying that he (Dr Mahathir) was threatening the people by saying that the country would be in chaos without a Barisan Government.

"I merely explained the importance of having a strong Barisan Government so that there will be no trouble," he said.

"In 1969, even though the then Alliance had won the elections albeit narrowly, the opposition began challenging the Government.

"We don't want this...," Dr Mahathir said.

Voters should not be influenced by a small group that was discrediting the Government, he said.