

DR M: AVOID PACT GROUPS

Don'ts for Umno members in party elections

By Zulkifli Talib and P.P. Lau

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged party members not to support candidates who form pacts in campaigning for the vice-president posts in the party elections on Nov 30.

He said today that such a practice was divisive and, together with other unhealthy campaign practices, could lead to the destruction of the party.

Party members, he said, should also reject those who used money, gave dinner invitations, pressured members, spread lies, and used government facilities and officers in their campaign.

"Pacts are not healthy for the party. No one should form pacts or cliques or have running mates or form any group in the contest," Dr Mahathir told newsmen after launching the National Family Day at Bandar Tun Razak here.

"I urge all party members not to support candidates who form pacts."

Asked whether he had detected any pact in the run-up to the party elections, Dr Mahathir said: "I am hearing stories of it."

Dr Mahathir said he would expose those found to use unhealthy means to win support.

"I will expose them in a general manner without actually naming them. I will tell party members that the way these people are campaigning is wrong and why it is important not to support them.

"If these people win, they will have no qualms in further using these tactics in the party," he said, adding that the 1987 party contest was a good example of what could happen to the party.

Dr Mahathir said those contesting party posts should instead campaign on their service record in the party and government and on their work.

"Every party member has the right to contest but I am worried of the campaigning style that is taking place. This is not healthy and can create divisions," he said.

"Already I can see some of the unhealthy elements which were prevalent during the 1987 party contest.

"I urge those who will be contesting not to use things like dinners in campaigning but to use their service record.

"Also, do not use government staff and equipment for their self interest or the interests of some others. It is wrong to use Kemas and information officers."

The three incumbent vice-presidents — Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Education Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim — have declared their intentions to seek re-election.

Among those who are said to be interested in contesting for the posts are Johor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohamed Yassin, Foreign Minister Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar, Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid and Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib.