

I'll continue to serve, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that he would stay on as Umno president and Prime Minister as he is still wanted by the party and people.

He said this when commenting on the resignations of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Singapore Premier Lee Kuan Yew.

"In the case of Mrs Thatcher, she has a reason to quit. As for Mr Lee, he has been Prime Minister for 31 years. I have not even completed 10 years.

"If people want me to step down, I will step down. Like in Thatcher's case, her party wanted her to leave.

"As for me, I still see that my party wants me, so I am staying. It is not as if people don't want me."

Second echelon

He was speaking at a Press conference after a closed-door meeting with Umno divisional leaders at Putra World Trade Centre.

On rumours that the party election on Friday was fraught with tension as he might step down in five years, he said:

"The party will be having another election in three years and those who win this time may not win again in the next round."

On his possible successors, he said there was, indirectly, already a second echelon of leaders.

However, he added, these leaders could also be replaced at the next party elections in three years.