

Party chief hopes Barisan components would understand why this must be so

Dr M. Umno will still lead

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the party must continue to lead the Barisan Nasional and Government, and hoped that component parties would understand why this must be so.

While assuring that it was not the intention of the Malays to control or dominate others, the Prime Minister stressed that the Malays, through Umno, must remain the mainstay of the Government.

Opening the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre, Dr Mahathir said:

"The Malays do not aspire to dominate other people. If we had wanted to, Umno would not have placed only 84 candidates when there are 96 constituencies having majority Malay voters.

"We were willing to sacrifice 12 seats because we were not greedy. But the Malays, through Umno, must become the pillar and foundation of the Malaysian Government.

"A coalition Government will not be strong and permanent if there is no single party to act as its core."

In his one hour and 35 minute address, the Prime Minister touched on a wide variety of subjects from the Umno election to the assault on the judiciary by the Bar Council, the treason by certain trade unionists and the future national economic plan.

Dr Mahathir said the country was lucky that the Barisan Nasional achieved overwhelming victory in last month's general election although many non-Malays did not give it their support.

The Umno president said the majority of the people could think rationally and did not want to gamble away their future, adding that those who did not vote for the Barisan Nasional must realise and be thankful that the Barisan Nasional supporters, by the virtue of their choice, had saved them.

The Prime Minister pointed to the inability of Pas and Semangat 46 to agree on many basic issues in Kelantan as an indication of what could have happened to the whole country if the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah and Gagasan Rakyat had won the election.

Referring to the Chinese newspapers, which he said had championed the call for a two-party system, Dr Mahathir said: "Chinese language newspapers who were so obsessed with supporting the concept of a two-party system were playing with fire by campaigning for the Opposition."

Seeking the permission of the delegates to speak in English, the Prime Minister said: "I would like to ask the Chinese Press, when are you going to lose your inferiority complex? Have some confidence in Malaysia's multi-party system.

"Can you not see that it has served you well all these years of independence? You are able to survive because of Malaysia's multi-party system.

"Under Pas, you won't last two days. So do not

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Success

in curbing racism

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abuse your rights, especially on racial matters."

Delegates and observers reacted spontaneously to the statement with thunderous applause.

Dr Mahathir said as a multi-racial country, Malaysia was far more successful than many nations in the West in controlling racism and at the same time developing the economy.

Referring to the Umno leadership contest, Dr Mahathir lamented that whether in Umno or in other political parties, the tendency among an increasing number of party members was to concentrate on personal gain than on service.

The signs that some Umno leaders had forgotten the philosophy and the struggle of the party were becoming more evident, he said. Traditions that kept the party intact were no longer fully supported. Instead, the members harped on their democratic rights as means of achieving their goals.

In an obvious reference to allegations that some contestants had financed or influenced "paid writers" to write books smearing and ridiculing their opponents in the party election, the Prime Minister said such a method would only perpetuate hostilities in the party.

The best way to preserve party unity, said Dr Mahathir, was for all party members to close ranks behind the victorious leaders once the election was over.