

A 'very good' line-up, says party president

# Dr M confident V-Ps

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# will work together

## QUOTE

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*DR MAHATHIR*

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. —** Umno president **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** described the new line-up of party vice-presidents as "very good", and expressed confidence that they would be able to work well together despite the fierce campaigning.

"Although various allegations were made during the pre-election campaigning, they were not so serious that the elected leaders cannot work together," Dr Mahathir told reporters during the morning break of today's

proceedings, the second of the party's general assembly.

The Prime Minister was commenting on the results of the vice-presidential election.

Dr Mahathir said delegates could identify new talent and gave them an opportunity to serve.

He believed this was how things were done in Umno provided "there are no interferences to confuse delegates".

Asked to comment on the defeat of all three Menteri Besar in yesterday's contest for the vice-presidents' posts, Dr Mahathir said it was not a must to have a Menteri Besar or Chief Minister represented at vice-presidential level.

In making their choice, Umno delegates considered it immaterial whether a candidate was a Menteri

Besar, with or without a Government post or whether he was from the north or the south, he said.

"As long as elected leaders enjoy the confidence of delegates, they are Umno leaders ... that's all."

Delegates, he said, had shown a return to Umno's trend of voting candidates in the party's interests and not on personal feelings for them.

At a Press conference in the evening, he said he was yet to make a decision on the appointment of two Deputy Ministers from the MIC.

He said an analysis was being made on the role of the various Barisan Nasional component parties in the recent general election.

Dr Mahathir said all parties would be allocated a place in the Government but they must play their

role to ensure the continued success of the Barisan Nasional.

Commenting on today's debate, he said the delegates had highlighted the tactics adopted by the Opposition during the general election, which were not known to the Commonwealth observer team.

He said this was because the team was not able to understand the vernacular newspapers, particularly some Chinese newspapers which had supported the Opposition.

Dr Mahathir said newspapers not only mirrored the views of the people but they could also influence the thinking of the people.

In this regard, he praised the English and Malay language dailies for not playing up issues in the Umno general assembly to stir up racial feelings among the Malays.