

UNITE TO REGAIN KELANTAN, Dr M TELLS UMNO MEN

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, declaring that the political climate in Kelantan had changed, today urged Umno members to work in unity to win back the state.

The party president and Prime Minister said Umno had to define its direction, work out and pursue a strategy together until it was achieved.

"If we have discipline and proper planning, we won't easily lose heart.

"If we lose, then we can get up and fight again,"

he told a special gathering of state Umno leaders at the party building here.

As a first step in reorganising the state Umno, he announced the appointment of several key officials of the liaison committee which he heads as chairman.

His deputy is Youth and Sports Minister Senator Haji Annuar Musa, secretary Haji Ahmad Shahibuddin Haji Mohamed Noor, treasurer Dr Nik Hussein Nik Abdul Rahman and information chief Hassan Harun.

Dr Mahathir urged party members in Kelantan not question the appointments and to rally behind them.

"We have made the changes. Let them now do the work."

"No one is perfect. Others appointed in their place might still be found wanting."

Dr Mahathir said Kelantan Umno was now weak because the party lost in the last elections.

Party members should now set aside their self-interest and focus on Um-

no's interest, he said.

He said Umno had worked out a five-year plan to regain its support in the state.

"The political climate in Kelantan has changed. Those who left the party in the past (to join Semangat 46) have realised their mistake, having gained nothing from the PAS government.

"We should welcome them back to Umno with an open attitude since we are now a minority in the state, and a minority can't win elections," he said.