

CNS7823

R GE 12-10 00214 EG340

eng

MAHATHIR : UNDERSTAND THE TRUE CONCEPT OF DEMOCRACY

Mahathir-Umno

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11, (Bernama) -- Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight urged the party's leaders to understand the true concept of democracy to ensure that the party remained strong.

He said Umno would suffer each time there was party election if the principles of democracy were not understood as the losers would either leave the party or refuse to support the new leaders.

+We need the support of the entire party, and not only of those who win the elections, to preserve the unity of the party, + he said when speaking at the Umno Kota Baru Division's Unity Night here.

He said there was a spilt in the party as there were certain groups who did not understand the true meaning of democracy and who even went to the extent of taking the party to court as they did not want to accept the wishes of party members.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Kelantan Umno's Liason chief, reminded party leaders at all levels not to look upon their posts as personal privileges to the extent of refusing to accept the leadership of others. -- more

♥12/10/00-32MST

R GE 12-10 00174 EG341

eng

Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

On the Umno Supreme Council elections scheduled for 1993, he said contests for posts could be held provided unity within the post-election line-up of leaders remained strong.

The Prime Minister said he was aware that certain leaders had already begun campaigning including employing ghost-writers to run down other leaders.

He said party members should also study the reasons why the party lost in Kelantan during the last general elections to ensure that the situation did not repeat itself.

+If we do not study the reasons why we lost, we will continue to lose and continue to blame others for the defeat without realising our own mistakes. Umno's defeat is because of Umno itself, + he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he regretted the defeat of Kelantan Umno in the two recent by-elections in the state as certain groups within the party who had their own interests at heart and refused to support the party's candidates. -- more

♥12/10/00-39MST

R GE 12-10 00117 EB203

eng

Mahathir - Umno 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He was sad that some UMNO members in Kelantan refused to accept the leadership of local people that he had to take over as head of the state UMNO.

+I took over the post as an emergency measure and I do not want to hold on to it forever, + he added.

Meanwhile, the head of Kota Baharu UMNO division, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said the function was held to reunite the members in the division.

The function was also attended by Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Melaka Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Thamby Chik.

--Bernama

♥12/10/00-41MST