

Dr M to stress on Vision 2020 in Umno presidential address

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to stress the goals of Vision 2020 in his presidential address to 1,750 people at the Umno general assembly on Friday.

The president's central message will guide Umno in its continued struggle in the era of the National Development Policy and towards attaining the objectives of an industrialised nation, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today.

A special assembly will be

held in the evening of the first day to discuss several proposals to amend the party constitution on membership registration, empowering the party president to appoint more supreme council members, election of Youth and Wanita leaders and postponement of divisional elections.

"I see no problem with the amendments. A big part of these proposed amendments is based on the demands from the Youth and Wanita wings.

"With these amendments, I believe the administration of the party will be smoother and the party will be

stronger in future," he said at a Press briefing at the party's headquarters here.

Umno today is stronger, he said, adding that if the party wanted to succeed in the nation-building process, especially in attaining the objectives of Vision 2020, it had to be strong and needed mass support.

"The road ahead for Umno is very good," he said, referring to the 1.7 million party membership.

And with the amendment to ensure a smooth, hassle-free registration of members? Datuk Mohamed is confident that the target of two million next year will be realised.

He, however, also stressed on the importance of loyalty to the party which he said was a culture of Umno.

This year's assembly is aptly themed **Umno Upholds Vision 2020**. Only two resolutions will be tabled -- one on the presidential address and the other on the economy.

Datuk Mohamed said the absence of a resolution on religion, which is tabled at every assembly, did not mean that religion had been given a back seat.

Datuk Mohamed said Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba would open the Umno Youth and Wanita assemblies tomorrow.