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MAHATHIR'S ADVICE TO UMNO MEMBERS ON ELECTIONS

Mahathir - Umno

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ALOR SETAR, July 25 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised Umno members against resorting to actions that can undermine party solidarity in their eagerness to vie for posts.

He reminded them against allowing their actions to result in the party being declared unlawful in a repeat of the 1987 case;

If there is too much eagerness in the contest for posts, the party would face many problems, and there would be disunity, particularly caused by poison-pen letters and accusations, he told reporters at the Sultan Abdul Halim Airport here before returning to Kuala Lumpur this evening.

He had arrived here this morning with his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, to open the Kubang Pasu Umno divisional delegates' meeting at the Dewan Jitra.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Kubang Pasu Umno Division chairman, said the contest for posts should be held in an orderly manner. The Umno elections are scheduled for next year. -- more

▼25/07/20-00MST

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Mahathir - Umno 2 Alor Setar

Earlier, when opening the meeting, he said Umno members must maintain party unity which would keep the party strong.

He said they should never resort to power struggle which would destroy the party, and advised those too eager to contest to await their turn for the posts.

+When our turn comes, we will accept the post and strive, not through campaigning by using money and poison-pen letters but by working honestly and sincerely.

+We will be thankful if we get the post, or even if we do not. But if we win a post through unhealthy tactics such as by using poison-pen letters and belittling others, we will not last in that position. Eventually, people will know who we really are, he said.

Dr Mahathir said that when the time came, he himself would step down, adding that he did not intend to stay on in power forever.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that in general Umno members and Muslims in the country were united except for a splinter group. +We hope that eventually this group will return to the fold, he added. -- more

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Mahathir - Umno 3 Alor Setar

Dr Mahathir also held a meeting with 15 committee members of the Koperasi Pekan Rabu at the airport before returning to Kuala Lumpur. He said the committee had handed him a letter signed by almost all the traders at the Pekan Rabu trading complex, agreeing to turn their business from the traditional to the modern.

Only one trader was reluctant to accept the change the government wanted to bring to Pekan Rabu.

The Prime Minister had asked the cooperative to obtain the agreement of all the traders for the development there because the government would only allocate funds provided they wanted change.

He said following their agreement, the government would look into ways to improve the business there, including bringing experts from Japan to improve the place. -- more

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Mahathir - Umno 4 (last) Alor Setar

He said the committee members had agreed to take up a visit organised by the government for them to see business sites in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir said the government had not determined the allocation to improve Pekan Rabu but had agreed to bear the cost of promotion such as installing lights to make the place more attractive.

Koperasi Pekan Rabu chairman Mustafa Ismail said 246 of the 247 traders there had signed the letter handed to the Prime Minister. -- Bernama

▼25/07/21-06MST