

'More support Kelantan Umno'

KOTA BARU: Kelantan Umno is regaining support from the public two years after the state fell into the hands of the opposition, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the party would have to continue working hard as it was impossible to regain 100 per cent support over such a short period.

The Umno president said the party's membership in the state had been increasing at an encouraging rate with many members crossing over from Semangat 46 and

Dr Mahathir said the latest batch of Semangat members applied to re-join Umno here yesterday.

"Fence-sitters have also come to realise the problems in Kelantan under opposition rule and are now trying to get close to Umno," he told newsmen after chairing Kelantan Umno's liaison committee meeting here last night.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting had decided on Bersatu *Selamatkan Kelantan* (Be united to save Kelantan) as the theme for the Kelantan Umno

convention to be held in Machang today.

Earlier in Alor Star, Dr Mahathir urged Umno members to be open-minded in the interest of the race, party, Barisan Nasional and the country.

He stressed that the success of a race hinged not only on its culture, language and religion.

"We do not want to see the Malays backward because of narrow-minded attitudes. A race that merely evolves around its language and culture will not last," he said when opening the Kelantan Umno convention yesterday.