

'Maintain party unity, Dr M tells Umno members

By Manan Osman

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — With four days to go before the Umno annual general assembly, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded members to maintain unity and solidarity, adding that Umno cannot be threatened from outside but can be weakened from within.

Party unity and family togetherness in Umno must be defended and consolidated at all times, he said.

Therefore, all misunderstandings and contests for party posts which can weaken the party should be avoided, he added.

In his message to delegates in the party's annual report to be presented to the assembly which begins on Friday, Dr Mahathir, who is Prime Minister, said the interest of the party must be

given priority.

"It is the responsibility of all leaders and members to ensure that Umno remain in power. If we are disunited and compete for positions in an unhealthy way, the efforts to strengthen the party and maintain our power would be eroded.

"The objectives of the party and the nation still have to be fought with greater emphasis in order to achieve our struggle and maintain the existing power. What is the use of fighting and competing for seats if we lose our power in the end."

"Our struggle continues. The nation's and the party's struggle need to be given more push to be successful and to retain our power. It is my hope that the unity in the party and the struggle to uphold party interests will continue to become the

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common objective of members."

He said that since the revival of the party in 1988, Umno's position has become much stronger, a proof of the growing support of the Malays and the masses for the party.

"As such, Umno's struggle for the Malays and the people can be undertaken with greater confidence and success."

Dr Mahathir also stressed the need to prepare the party to meet the challenges in the years beyond 2000 so that it could lead the people, irrespective of their race and creed, to become an industrialised nation under Vision 2020.

On international affairs, Dr Mahathir said the collapse of the communist system and the Soviet empire had resulted in the monopo-

ly of the military power by the United States.

"This has resulted in a strain in international relations. The United Nations and the Security Council are controlled by the superpowers and no longer reflect the changes which have taken place in the world after World War II."

He said the world kept on changing, and as a developing nation, Malaysia needed to voice out its concerns over developments around it.

"We need to voice out our opinion and stance openly on political, social economic issues which affect us and the region. We also do this in the interest of other developing nations."