

# Dr M on-dirty tactics

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad highlighted the dirty tactics of certain party members who work with the opposition to deny their rivals a place in the party hierarchy.

He said that there are those who think that if they cannot achieve their ambitions, other leaders should not achieve them too.

He said: "They would rather see outsiders getting it. We have seen people like this.

"They would even work with opposition parties to

defeat their own party just because they did not get what they were after. People like this are worse than enemies. They betray the party's struggle from within.

"I hope people like this are no longer in the party. Party members must give priority to the party and not to certain individuals.

"The more they campaign, especially if they use dirty tactics, the higher is the probability of them not being selected as leaders. A party which is led by such persons will always be weak and will bring defeat to all."

Speaking at the opening of the Umno general assembly today, Dr Mahathir wondered whether the members had learnt anything from the unhappy experiences of the party.

"I would like to say "yes" but the fact is there are those who have not. For elections at branch and divisional levels, unhealthy campaigns had been conducted.

"Government facilities are sometimes used to garner support for individuals.

"Overseas tours are arranged and sponsored for

the same purpose.

"Poison pen letters containing lies and party secrets have been circulated. Books are published to discredit certain leaders. Certain people create issues which are then used by their followers to run down noble efforts to bring success to their own race.

"And plenty of money is still being thrown around to get support.

"I would like to remind members that if we are too obsessed with getting positions in the party, the party will be destroyed, and the

## of some members

positions will have no meaning anymore. Being a leader of a weak party is meaningless," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that the party has only one president and the country only one prime minister. Although we might have a hundred people of calibre, only one can reach this position. Ninety-nine others will fail.

But if the contest for the position is too intense, success does not have any meaning because the party will be split and weak and the president may not become a prime minister who

is effective and well respected, he said.

Others will benefit from the greed of certain leaders, he added.

He said: "Don't ever forget the 1987 incident. As a result of the incident, the party was declared unlawful the following year. If this happens again, the party may not be revived. With that, not only the Malays and Bumiputeras will suffer, the country may also be weak, left without dignity and discredited."

Dr Mahathir concluded his address with a reminder

to delegates that Umno, as the biggest party in the country, is the mainstay of the Government. It shoulders full responsibility for the country's future. If the country succeeds, Umno has the right to be proud. But if the country fails, the failure is also Umno's.

He said Umno leaders at all levels and members must realise this fact. The party's struggle is bigger and more important than that of any individual in the party, he said, adding that the interest of the party supersedes that of individuals.