

Don't repeat mistakes, members told

KOTA BARU, Thurs. — Umno members should remember the party history to prevent a recurrence of past mistakes that had led to serious problems, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Umno members sometimes forgot that the party had its own history.

People who tend to forget their history also tend to repeat their mistakes, he said.

"But on the other hand, if we learn about Umno's history, we can prevent the recurrence of mistakes which led to serious repercussions for the party in the past," he said.

The history of the party was not only the period of

up to 1987 when it was declared unlawful, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the present Umno which was also referred to as Umno (Baru) was a continuation of the party which was formed on May 11, 1947.

"This year, we will be celebrating our 35th year of independence which means that it (independence) was achieved after 10 years of struggle by Umno," he said at the opening the Wanita Umno workcamp at the Kota Baru Polytechnic in Kok Lanas near here.

He said Umno remained the oldest and strongest party till today because its members' struggle was in the interest of religion, the people and the nation.

"If Umno members were

self-centered and selfish, then the party would become weak."

Referring to the 1987 incident when Umno was declared unlawful, Dr Mahathir said it was the result of Umno members fighting only for the benefit of a particular group of people.

"We cannot blame the court for the decision but only ourselves," he said.

In an obvious reference to Semangat 46, Dr Mahathir said the party was now being made a tool by Pas.

"The party actually lost miserably in the last general election although it was confident of wresting control of the Government at the Federal level. However, because of them, Pas managed to gain control of Ke-

lantan."

He also said that Umno had managed to run the country efficiently with coalition partners who upheld the same ideology and principles.

"We do not accept extremist parties like the DAP as our partners," he said.

Dr Mahathir also spoke of the danger of unlimited democracy which he said would destroy not only the people but also the country.

He said a number of socialist and communist countries had fallen apart because they did not understand the principles of democracy.

Also present at the opening ceremony was Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.