

Situation stable, says

By PAUL GABRIEL

ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday the political situation remained stable in the light of developments in Umno as it prepares for the party elections.

The Prime Minister said the country's democratic process enabled leaders to vie for positions and also to refrain from doing so.

"This is the democratic way. There is no need to lose our heads. In Umno, we reconcile and get back to work after a (party) election.

"This is the best way, unlike what happens in PAS . . . we need to maintain the healthiest state of affairs in the interest of the people and country," Dr Mahathir told his Kubang Pasu constituents at the Dewan Jitra in Jitra.

Also present was Menteri Besar and Kubang Pasu Umno division deputy head Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff.

Dr Mahathir, who heads the division, said leaders should always put the interest of the country and the people above their own.

"We become leaders not to fill our own pockets, but to serve the people and country . . . we want the people to get richer.

14 AUG 1993
"The aspirations of the Government should reflect that of the people."

The prime minister said the country's continued progress was "not guaranteed" unless the people chose the correct leaders.

"We have the task of nurturing the "economic tree" which does not grow wildly. If we take good care of the tree, it will surely keep flourishing

He also assured the people that the Government would be fair to all races, adding that it was not possible to stifle the Chinese and Indian communities who had played a big role in the country's development.

Dr Mahathir told newsmen at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport before leaving for Kuala Lumpur that it was left to Umno members to decide the "age factor" in the party polls.

"Talking about age, I am also old," he said.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether age would be a "barrier" in the party polls as certain members were basing their campaign on the age factor.

Dr Mahathir advised PAS, Semangat 46 and the DAP to prepare for a general election.

He said these opposition parties were fond of making promises which they could not keep after the elections.