

# PM sure Umno will not be split

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno members are sensible enough not to allow the party elections in November to split the party, president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"I am quite sure our members are sensible enough not to allow themselves to be so worked up to the extent of splitting the party," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the contest, which will see a fight for the deputy president's post, was minor

compared to previous elections.

The Prime Minister was asked why the Umno supreme council had not attempted to avert the contest for the No 2 spot as it could possibly lead to a split.

He was speaking to newsmen after chairing a three-hour Umno supreme council meeting at the party headquarters here yesterday.

"In any case, fortunate-

ly for me and the party, up to now, nobody has challenged me," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that he would act as the agent of keeping the party together after the party polls.

On his earlier advice that there should be no fight for the deputy presidency, he said: "I think that is history now.

"I have advised but apparently the party believes that democracy gives it the right to reject

any advice that is quite undemocratic, according to them.

"According to me, it is very democratic," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said Umno supported the peace accord between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel.

"We fully support the stand taken by the PLO to recognise Israel and to have peace (in the Middle East)," he said.