

# 'Getting all to vote in future elections'

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JITRA, Thurs. — Umno will study alternative ways to enable all voters to cast their ballots in future general elections, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"If present facilities are inadequate, we may have to consider introducing postal votes to factory workers.

"I will bring up this matter at the next supreme council meeting," he added.

The Prime Minister said this when responding to a call from the Kubang Pasu Wanita Umno which had asked the Government to encourage more women to register as voters.

Dr Mahathir said the Government had relaxed many regulations to allow the people to register themselves with the Election Commission.

"However, many have failed to do so.

"We have also allowed the people to choose where they

intend to vote, but this too has received poor response," he said.

Dr Mahathir said factory managements had also allowed factory workers, mostly women, to work on certain shifts to allow them to leave their jobs momentarily to vote.

The Prime Minister added he himself chose to carry out his voting rights in his hometown of Titi Gajah, near here.

"Although I have shifted to Kuala Lumpur for more than 19 years now, I still come back to Titi Gajah to cast my vote for Umno.

"In Kuala Lumpur, the candidates (in the general election) have always been between the MCA and the DAP. BN component parties have always found it difficult to win here (Kuala Lumpur) and as such, I would rather give it to Umno in my hometown," he said.

On a call from the division's Youth to check on the private education in the country, Dr Mahathir said: "The Education Ministry has formed a committee to review the National Education Policy with a view to improve it."

"We will compare what we have achieved over the 36 years since we gained independence."

The Prime Minister also said the Government encouraged "twinning" educational programmes between local and foreign universities to reduce expenses.

"The Government alone spends about RM3 billion to send our children abroad. Twinning can help reduce this amount."

He also said the Government would not neglect the National Language and ensure that the education provided through the twinning programmes did not compromise our National Edu-

cational Policy.

Dr Mahathir hoped those who lost in the divisional elections would continue to serve the party.

He said they should emulate former Assemblyman Tan Sri Ashaari Taib who continued to struggle for Umno although he is now only a branch chairman.

On the development of a golf course in Bukit Kayu Hitam, Dr Mahathir said the sports could provide economic advantages to the locals.

"We should not stop the wealthy from spending their money on golf as it will benefit the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people should not envy the wealthy and corporate figures because they had been contributing financially through taxes.

"Tax collection enables the Government to implement development projects to help the people."