

Keep serving, Dr M urges polls losers

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ALOR STAR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has expressed hope that Umno members who are not re-elected will still serve the party.

"In the past, we went up because of the support from others. When we lose, it does not mean that we can forget them," he said in his closing speech at the Kubang Pasu division delegates meeting in Jitra on Thursday.

He commended Kubang Pasu incumbent vice-chairman Datuk Haji Hanafi Ramli, who pledged that he would continue to serve the party despite losing to Kedah Youth chief Senator Saad Man in the elections.

Hanafi said after his defeat that one had to realise, in politics, "sometimes we will win and sometimes we will lose."

He promised to continue serving the party in his position as a branch chairman and also as a representative of the people. Hanafi is the assem-

blymen for Tunjang.

Dr Mahathir also cited senior Umno member Tan Sri Ashaari Taib, who still serves the party as branch chairman despite losing his supreme council seat.

"Such spirit will ensure that Umno continues to function smoothly," the party president said.

He also advised members not to be jealous of the rich as they had been paying taxes which helped the Government to implement development projects.

He also said members should be prudent when asking for aid to develop their areas during Umno meetings because the Government cannot accommodate all requests.

Earlier, when winding up the division's resolutions, Dr Mahathir said the Government would consider introducing postal ballots for factory workers or asking factory management to allow their workers time off to

vote in future general elections.

He was responding to the division's Wanita wing's resolution which asked the Government to ensure that women be given more opportunity to cast their votes.

Dr Mahathir expressed regret that many people had not registered as voters even though the Government had taken various steps to ensure easier registration.

To a call by the division's Youth wing to control private education in the country, he said the Government ensured that the curriculum of private institutions were in line with government policies.

"Their curriculum are checked and certain subjects have to be in the national language," he said.

He added that the Government was encouraging students to study locally to reduce the RM3 billion yearly government expenditure in sending students overseas.