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Mahathir-elections

DR MAHATHIR REMINDS PARTY MEMBERS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO ELECTIONS

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KOTA BAHARU, Oct 30⁹³ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded Umno members not to continue to campaign for party posts during elections as it will be disastrous for the party.

Fighting for party posts was not the same as securing support in elections and if Umno members persisted, Umno would be bound to lose, he said when opening the Kelantan Umno mini convention here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that candidates in party polls should set aside any sentiments while campaigning to ensure the success of the party's candidates in elections.

On the campaign for the party polls on Nov 4, he said that large amounts of money had been used in the campaign. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said that the present campaign was different from past campaigns although the party polls were held every year.

He said that the present situation had created inflation although the party polls were held every three years to the extent that expenses to secure the support of delegates involved millions of ringgit.

Expressing concern over this development, Dr Mahathir said that he wanted Umno to continue to last because he had been in the party for a long time.

"We want the party to last ... we will not last ... buy whatever medicine but when the time comes we will die, but the party can last ... although the party can last, it depends on party members and if all were to scramble for posts, the party will be destroyed," he added.

He said that if Umno members did not want a repeat of the 1987 incident, they should preserve the integrity of the party. -- more

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Mahathir-elections 3 Kota Baharu

Dr Mahathir, who is the state Umno liaison chief, also said that the landslide victory of PAS and Semangat 46 in the 1990 general election was Umno's gift to them.

Umno members in the state was at that time disunited and this allowed PAS and Semangat 46, through the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah, to make a clean sweep, he said.

He said that the cause of the split within the party was no longer important but the fact remained that if Umno contested in an election while the members were disunited, this would lead to defeat.

In this respect, he said that Umno members and leaders in that state should uphold three principles to ensure that the party could recapture the state. -- more

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Mahathir-elections 4 (last) Kota Baharu

Firstly, he said, they should not make Umno an unpopular party among the people in the state and secondly, Umno candidates contesting in elections should be able to convince all voters, irrespective of their parties, that they were the most qualified persons to lead them and thirdly, Umno members should set aside sentiments and emotions to ensure the victory of the Barisan Nasional candidate.

When asked to elaborate on his advice, Dr Mahathir said that although there were no splits among the party members in the state, such advice had to be given from time to time so that they would not forget their responsibility.

This also applied to Umno members in the other states, he added. --

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