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Mahathir-Umno

THERE'S STILL A ROLE FOR THE VANQUISHED, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 30 (Bernama) -- Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says there's still a role for the vanquished after the party elections because it needed all hands to fight for the aspirations of the race and nation.

The Prime Minister said those who lost must accept their defeat if the elections were conducted with respect, dignity and in accordance with the party constitution.

In his message in conjunction with the party elections on Nov. 4, he said: "I am also reminded that the party elections are to choose party leaders in a democratic manner. In elections, there must surely be winners and losers.

"So long as the elections are run fairly, cleanly, in line with the constitution and conducted with respect and dignity, we must accept the results although we lost."

A copy of the message was released by party Secretary General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat at a briefing today for local and foreign mass media representatives covering the elections. -- more

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Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir expressed satisfaction that, generally, the elections at branch and division levels were held without hurting the principles of democracy practiced by the party.

While he congratulated the winners, he expressed regret that the "poison pen" culture of spreading falsehood about party leaders still persisted.

He said the sole motive of the authors were to disrupt the elections by pitting one leader against another, smearing candidates and spreading lies to create disunity and feuds among members.

Looking to UMNO's future, Dr Mahathir said the party should adapt itself to face the challenges of the coming decade because the approaching era was a universal, information technology and high technology-based one.

"A party needs go through the process of change from time to time. If it does not and ignores the winds of change blowing around it, it will stagnate and be unable to adapt to the political, economic, social and cultural situation within its own community and the world community," he added. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said, however, not all change was good and constructive because there was also change that was detrimental to man.

"If we are not in tune with our surroundings, we will not be able to grasp the opportunities from the change to benefit the party, race and nation," he added.

He also reminded members to constantly enhance effectiveness, capability and ability to adapt themselves with the fast changing world because the present and coming era called for them to be knowledgeable beings.

He stressed that the manner by which the party was run and managed should also be adapted to suit the times, more so now that the party membership totalled two million.

"Therefore, the party administration must be clean, orderly and up-to-date. More importantly, our way of thinking must change and this may be achieved if we open our minds to the influence of the human development and progress in this global era," he said -- Bernama

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