

# Unity vital, Umno members told

Sun T 1 OCT 1993

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KOTA BARU, Sat. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it would be meaningless to win positions in the party if Umno cannot win an election and form the Government.

He said it was easy to win posts in the party but it would be difficult to win seats in the elections.

However, Dr Mahathir said, there were those in Umno who still did not take the matter of winning seats in the elections seriously.

"To win an election, a candidate needs more than just

votes from party members. He also needs votes from fence-sitters and supporters of opposition parties."

He warned Umno members of tactics and strategies used by candidates in party elections that could cause their failure to win seats during national polls.

He said voters could not be easily swayed by the candidate who used the same strategy in winning party positions.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at the opening of the Kelantan Umno mini convention held at Perdana Resort. Also present were Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Annuar Musa and Defence Minister Datuk Seri

Najib Abdul Razak.

Dr Mahathir said voters might not be happy with the strategies used by Umno leaders to secure party posts and therefore such victories would be meaningless to the party.

In a lighter vein, he said for those who were eager to hold positions in the party, they might as well form their own party.

He said Kelantan Umno would not be able to capture the State if it depended on party members alone. "We need those who are 'neutral' and not committed to the party to help win us seats."

He said Umno lost in Kelantan because there was a split in the party.

Umno members should not be emotional, he said, adding that they should avoid conflicts and splits in the party if they wanted to see Umno ruling Kelantan again.

"Strong determination but with only a small group of supporters will not ensure victory for a party."

He said Umno would be able to capture Kelantan if its members did not do anything that could wane the party's popularity.

"All Umno members in the State must unite and give their full support to candidates selected to represent the party in an election."