

▼22/04/17-10MST

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Mahathir-Leader

LEADERSHIP CHANGE SHOULD OCCUR DURING PERIOD OF CALM, SAYS PM

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SUBANG, April 22⁹⁴ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that any leadership change in Umno should take place during a period of calm.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said such a situation would ensure the party's stability and strength.

Launching Umno Youth's "Gerak Kerja Perdana" (Prime Work Programme) here, he said that once a candidate was chosen for a post, the supporters of rival candidates should give their cooperation and backing to the candidate who won.

"We should then close ranks and support the new leader," he added.

He advised Umno Youth members who aspired to replace the present leaders to understand the party's objectives so that they could preserve continuity within the party. -- more

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Mahathir-Leader 2 Subang

"Don't be too much in a hurry (to become leaders)," he said.

The younger members must first assimilate all aspects of Umno's principles and struggle in order to be effective.

"Should they take over without firm preparations, the objective (of the party) will not be achieved," he said.

They should also be willing to support and continue all policies of the party, he said.

Dr Mahathir warned Umno Youth members to beware certain people who wished to split the party by spreading rumours of "this leader falling out with that leader...this one wanting to topple that one". -- more

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Mahathir-Leader 3 (last) Subang

These rumours were now being spread so widely that the foreign media "smelt a story" in them suggesting "there is hickering among Umno leaders".

"This is all ill-intention...they envy the solidarity and strength of Umno.

"Hence, the first lesson for Umno Youth members is to avoid any divisiveness," he said.

He also told Youth members not to allow emotions to take control of their thinking when carrying out their activities.

Umno Youth chief Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik, in his speech, said the movement planned a special cadre training programme this year for up to 100,000 of its leaders from the central to the branch levels.

It would also launch a programme to help wipe out poverty in the country, he said. -- Bernama

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