

# Choose leaders wisely, says PM

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and  
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MALACCA Mon — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people must choose their leaders wisely because only leaders with ideas can contribute to the continued progress of the country.

The Prime Minister said leaders with ideas can help determine the destiny of the country and its people.

Dr Mahathir said this at a gathering of Umno and Barisan Nasional leaders at Seri Bendahara, the official residence of Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik tonight.

He said nations have gone bankrupt because the people had chosen wrong leaders.

He added: "The Barisan Nasional will try to be in

power for as long as possible in the interest of the nation. That is why the selection of leaders is not a matter to be taken lightly.

"I am confident that the people will continue to support the BN because we have always delivered continued progress to the people."

The Prime Minister said the nation do not want leaders who are only interested in promoting their own interests. The country also has no place for leaders who are arrogant and selfish.

He paid tribute to the Malacca State Government for developing Malacca into a modern and progressive state. Malacca has grown from a state with lodging houses to one with five-star hotels and industries.

"Such wealth is the fruits of creative leaders who are able to implement the ideas to concrete physical devel-

opment."

He also thanked corporate leaders who have contributed to Umno. He said these people managed to contribute to the party because they had managed to accumulate wealth due to the political stability brought about by a responsible Barisan Nasional Government.

Meanwhile, Malacca Umno liaison committee chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik said it would intensify its campaign to recruit more voters to strengthen the party for the coming general election.

He said the party had managed to increase the number of voters from 140,000 to 212,000 through several membership drives.

Rahim, who is also the Umno Youth chief and Chief Minister, said he was confident that the number would increase further with the aggressive campaign planned.

Together with other Barisan Nasional component parties, he said Umno believed the BN would receive strong support from voters in the election.

He also said that though no date had been set for the general election, several local party members had started to lobby for candidacy.

Rahim said the state Umno planned to set up an Umno museum to keep all information on the development of the party, especially in Malacca, and the struggle of Malay leaders during the colonial period.

Speaking at a dinner at his official residence in conjunction with Dr Mahathir's one-day visit to the state, he thanked donors who had contributed some RM1.4 million for the state Umno fund. The donations were handed to Dr Mahathir during the function.