

PM: Select capable leaders

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MALACCA: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded the people to select leaders who can contribute to the country's continued development.

"If the people make the wrong choice, the country can be destroyed," he said at a dinner to raise funds for Malacca Umno at Seri Hendahara, the official residence of Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik, on Monday.

The Prime Minister cited instances

when some governments had gone bankrupt because the people had picked the wrong leaders.

He expressed confidence that the people would want the present Barisan Nasional government to remain in power as the RN had always fulfilled its promises.

"The RN government can ensure continued peace and stability in the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the nation did not need leaders who were interested in

enriching themselves instead of striving for development.

He said Malacca under Rahim had developed from a state with a lodging house to one with five-star hotels and industries.

In his speech, Rahim said Malacca Umno and other BN component parties were all geared for the election.

"We want to ensure that the opposition will not penetrate into the state this time," he said.

Rahim, who is state Umno chair-

man, said the party had recruited 72,000 new voters through several membership drives.

He also spoke of plans to set up an Umno museum to store information on the party's development, especially in Malacca, and the struggles and sacrifices of Malay leaders during the colonial period.

A total of RM1.4 million was raised through donations by several corporations and individuals ranging from RM10,000 to RM200,000 during the dinner.