

# Fulfil promises, elected reps told

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno elected representatives must endeavour to fulfil all their election promises for the sake of the people.

He said they received the support of the people because they (the people) believed that their representatives could fulfill the promises.

"It is better for us not to make any promises if we have no intention of fulfilling them," he said.

However, the Prime Minister said, it was now a bit too late for them to go back on their word.

"Promises have been made and must be kept," he said in his speech at Umno's 49th anniversary celebration at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC). Also present were deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and the various State liaison chairmen who are either Menteri Besar or Chief Ministers.

Among others present were the party's division heads, Youth and Wanita divisional leaders.

Dr Mahathir said the overwhelming support for Umno and the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the election would mean a greater burden and responsibility for the party and its friends in BN.

"The people's support does not mean that we can show off by becoming the countries' dignitaries, by being *Yang terhormat* or *Yang Amat Berhormat* — Ministers, Deputy Ministers or Parliamentary Secretar-

ies.

"We must remember that the people chose us or elected us because they expect us to serve them and manage all Government matters efficiently.

"That is why we received a resounding success," he said, adding that such an unprecedented achievement had given them a greater burden.

"I hope we will all realise this and therefore not waste our time by being idle. We must, on the contrary, concentrate on the responsibility entrusted to us by the people."

Dr Mahathir also said that the Government's vision to turn the country into an industrialised nation by the year 2020 had helped in gaining the people's backing in the election.

Therefore, he said, the Government would not disappoint them, adding that it would work hard to ensure the aspirations of the people to see Malaysia become an advanced nation materialise.

"We have the ability and have proven that we can absorb and implement modern technologies and sciences.

"What is required is a little bit more focus and concentration in ensuring the success of our efforts," he said.

He said the Government could provide the guidelines and the necessary materials but without the right attitude, it was impossible to succeed.

He also said Umno's continued strength and support from the people was due to the party's sensitivity towards the people's needs, as

evident in the general election.

"It is not easy for a party to remain for so long and achieve considerable success like Umno," he said.

He said Umno had gained in strength from just a few hundred during the struggle against the Malayan Union to some 2.4 million at present, which showed that it had undertaken its roles effectively.

Dr Mahathir also said that the country now saw more unity among people of various races as reflected by the overwhelming support given to the BN in the election.

He attributed this to Umno's policy of safeguarding the interests of the Malays and other Bumiputeras while not neglecting people from other ethnic groups.

He said Umno was sensitive to the situation in the country and acted with moderation, taking into account the views of the various communities.

He also urged Umno members to close ranks and to forget any incidents which took place at the branches and divisions and to concentrate on making the country an industrialised nation.

Dr Mahathir said although a member might be charismatic, efficient, skillful or popular but he would be nothing without the party.

He warned them against putting their interest above that of the party.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Anwar and Mohamed, earlier raised the party's flag to the tune of Umno's theme song *Bersatu, Bersedia, Berkhidmat* to mark the occasion.

Later, replying to ques-

tions from reporters who asked for his comments on the maturity of Umno members and their discipline after 49 years of the party being established, Dr Mahathir said Umno members were more matured and were more aware of the needs and priorities of the country.

"They are more discerning and are able to carry out political analysis in a wiser way."

However, he said there were some "unhealthy elements" in the party but described this as normal.

That was why, he said, in last month's general election, there were members who challenged the party, became Independent candidates or supported the Independents.

He said those who did not leave Umno had played a role in ensuring that the party's candidates in certain constituencies were defeated or had reduced the victory margins.

"So there has been good and bad development in Umno ... this is normal," he said.

However, he said the situation was not that bad, otherwise the party would not have won.

He also said that it was not true that the party no longer struggled for the cause of the Malays although the strategy was different now as the situation had changed.

"We cannot struggle for a certain objective based on the situation and conditions existing in the fifties without taking into account the changes that had taken place since," he said.