

Be proud of Malays who have done well,

# Dr M: Discard ill

Umno members told

# feelings

By Ahmad A. Talib

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. -- In a winding-up speech which summed up his thoughts on Umno and what the party intends to achieve, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told party members not to harbour ill feelings against those who have done well, especially individuals who benefited from the Government's privatisation programme.

The Umno president and Prime Minister said party members in particular and Bumiputeras in general should feel proud that there were now individuals from the community who had succeeded and made a name for themselves and the country.

Dr Mahathir told the Umno general assembly which ended today: "Jealousy may be part of human nature, but I think we should discard such ill feelings. There are successful Malay businessmen who have gained international recognition and are mentioned in publications such as *Fortune*.

"I think we should share the happiness of their success. These individuals have not forgotten Umno. They make all sorts of contributions to society. But they prefer to maintain a low profile. But it's a fact that they help build schools, provide scholarships, and undertake many other projects.

"Part of their success was made possible through the Government's privatisation programme. Before these individuals were awarded pro-

latta.

Explaining to the delegates why the Government sold 32 per cent of shares in the two companies — Malaysia Airlines and Hicom — to Bumiputera individuals, Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli and Datuk Seri Yahaya Ahmad respectively, Dr Mahathir said both had shown their capabilities.

He explained that the shares were not sold at special prices. In fact, Tajuddin had paid RM3 above the market share for the MAS shares, he said.

Dr Mahathir also cited Telekom Malaysia as an example of the Government's success in privatisation. Telekom was first corporatised and was only privatised later when the Government was confident enough that it would do well.

If Telekom had remained under the Government, Malaysians would certainly not be able to use hand-phones as today because of bureaucratic red tape and a longer decision-making process, he added.

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He said that to wait for Bumiputeras to climb up the business ladder would take a long time and so the Government had to speed up their upward movement.

The Prime Minister said efforts to increase the number of Bumiputera industrialists would continue.

jects under the programme, they had already proven their ability to run big operations.

"The Government believed that they could go even further, and that was partly why they were trusted with big projects."

Dr Mahathir dwelt at length on the privatisation programme in his response to delegates which raised several points on the issue at the assembly.

He spoke for slightly more than an hour, a good portion of it spent on the rationale for privatisation programmes.

He said the successful parties were helping Bumiputeras a lot such as providing jobs in their companies and better education opportunities as was done by Tan Sri Abdul Halim Saad of Perlis who had built a multi-million ringgit school in Ma-

It had been proven that if individuals had a stake in a project, they would make sure that the undertaking succeeded, and succeeded very well, he said.

Dr Mahathir also touched on the resolution passed by the assembly yesterday which said that the post of president and deputy president would not be contested at next year's assembly. The resolution also said that the top two leaders now should be retained until at least 1999.

He also expressed confidence that his desire to hand over to his successor a strong and united Umno when the time came could be achieved.

He hoped that the resolution passed spontaneously

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# 'Successor must have support of whole party'

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yesterday would do good for the party.

He said his successor must have the support of the whole of Umno because the party still had many programmes that needed to be implemented in view that Malaysia "has yet to reach a level where people will not look down on us".

The country was still 25 years before the targets of Vision 2020 could be achieved, he said.

However, he regretted that there were parties trying to worsen the situation by alleging that he and his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, had concocted various stories.

He said there were also stories circulating that the party president and the deputy was making a big show that there would be a contest, knowing from the very start that there was not going to be any.

Dr Mahathir also said: "Two things could happen if there is a contest. First, I may win, and second, I may lose. It's okay if I win, at least from my point of view,

"It's okay too, if I lose. After all, I've led the party for 14 years, been a Prime Minister that long. But imagine if Anwar loses, that's the end of his political career."

The remark was greeted with laughter by the delegates, perhaps with relief that the likelihood of this happening was remote after yesterday's resolution.

Asked to elaborate on this at a Press conference later, Dr Mahathir said: "I am only using the example of Tengku Razaleigh. When he lost to me, that was the end of his future.

"If he had not contested against me, there is a possibility of him becoming Prime Minister when I step down. There's no chance for Anwar.

"But he wanted to give Anwar the opportunity, so he contested against me. He lost and left Umno and formed his own party. And that's the end of his history (*riwayat*).

"In politics, if you take one step in the wrong direction, it maybe the end of your political career."

At this point, Anwar, who was also present at the conference, interjected by saying: "I've made the right decision, so the matter is closed" to the laughter of all present.