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Mahathir-Outcome

CONVENTION DECLARATION WILL PROPEL MALAYS FURTHER, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the declaration adopted by the Umno 50th Anniversary Convention will take the Malays another step forward in every sector of their life.

The Prime Minister is confident they now understand better the political situation of the Malays and will take the appropriate measures to further enhance their economic position.

"Many ideas were brought up at the convention and these will help us fulfil the objectives, particularly in the Malays' and other Bumiputeras' economic sector," he told a news conference at the close of the one-day convention at Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the convention declaration would be the guide for Umno and the government in setting the direction of the party and the Malays in the 21st Century.

The involvement of corporate leaders and Malay intellectuals in presenting working papers at the convention proved the sincerity of Umno in wishing to see the Malays advance, especially in the fields of politics, economy and education, without forsaking Islamic values, he added.

Hicom chairman Datuk Seri Yahaya Ahmad presented a paper on the economy while education was the theme of educationist Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh's paper. A paper on religion was tabled by Institute for Islamic Understanding (Ikim) Director-General Datuk Dr Ismail Ibrahim.

Dr Mahathir reminded Umno leaders and members to abide by the party's code of ethics.

"I am sure when we take action against leaders who violate the rules, other leaders will gradually come to know we are serious in enforcing the ethics," he said.

Asked by a foreign journalist whether he would lead Umno into the next century since he would be the party leader until 1999, Dr Mahathir said that was a possibility but everything depended on the situation.

"But what is sure is that this year when we have elections, I will remain as the president. What happens after that, I cannot be sure," he said. -- BERNAMA

MAM AHH CTL