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`Party places emphasis on stability and unity'

JELI, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno believed in the process of democracy but not one which allowed the country to be destroyed.

The Prime Minister, who is also Umno's president, said the party placed great emphasis on stability and unity, which was the rationale behind the directive that no contests be allowed for divisional chiefs' posts in Kelantan.

"Our approach is democratic as we disallow contests which bring no benefits. The one propagated by Western powers is not actually democratic, for to some, as long as the means are democratic, it is all right even if the country is destroyed in the process."

He was speaking at a Press conference after a meet-the-people session and the opening of the Jeli Umno division delegates' meeting.

Almost 90 per cent of the divisions in the State have held their meetings.

On whether Pas would benefit from election contests, Dr Mahathir said it was Umno members who provided it with the chance.

"Contests are allowed. Regardless of whether one wins or loses, he should close ranks after that and continue with the party's struggle. This is Umno's democracy."

What should be deplored, said Dr Mahathir, was fighting among members and being involved in money politics.

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