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Rais calls for party to adopt positive values

UMNO must fight cronyism, corruption and other forms of power abuse to achieve social justice and to remain respected, the former deputy president of the defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46, Datuk Dr Rais Yatim, said yesterday.

"Umno needs to change. If we don't adopt positive values, we will be destroyed. Umno will not mean a thing anymore," he said when asked to comment on the presidential address.

Rais said party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had been consistent in his call for Malays to initiate reforms.

He said at the 1996 Umno general assembly, the party president stressed that Malays needed to orientate themselves towards reformation and this year the call was narrowed down to certain sectors.

On the president's message on cronyism and nepotism, he said the words had to be explained or many would be confused.

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