

# Ex-S46

## members can stand in general election

un

18 JUN 1999  
Former Semangat 46 members now in Umno can contest in the general election even if they do not meet five-year membership ruling, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

"The decision was made after ex-Semangat 46 members joined Umno," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting.

He said this matter needed to be clarified following a statement he made earlier at a closed door Umno pre-council meeting on Wednesday he had said members must have been in the party for five years before they are eligible to contest in the general election.

He clarified that the ruling applied to those joining Umno as new members.

Former S46 members are full-fledged Umno members, Mahathir said. "and there is no discrimination towards them".

When asked the decision would be accepted by Umno members, he replied: "As far as we are concerned they are Umno members and they not Semangat 46 members. You don't discriminate or differentiate between Umno members and Semangat 46 members," he said.