

'Don't let us be colonised again'

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By Manan Osman

IPOH, Mon. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno members had the extremely important role of working to ensure the country will not be colonised again.

The Prime Minister said it was necessary, therefore, for every Umno member to work very hard towards retaining the two-thirds majority in the coming general election.

"Members have a very heavy responsibility to their country, race and religion, not only to prevent the country from foreign invasion but also to be on par with other races in the world," he said.

He said it was imperative for everybody to safeguard the interests of the party and not allow minor problems to affect their unity.

He said the election could not be won by solely getting votes of Umno members.

Therefore, it was necessary that the party continued to receive the undivided support of members and non-members alike.

"We cannot wait for the election before going down to the people but must begin from now, so that the people will continue to sup-

port the Barisan Nasional," he said.

Stressing the importance of the BN securing a two-thirds majority in the election, he said: "What would happen for instance if the BN managed to secure only one more seat than the Opposition. There would be chaos and the Opposition would try to "buy" over the candidate and there would be a crossover.

"This would give the opportunity for foreign elements to try to exert their influence and eventually, directly or indirectly, the country will once again be colonised."

Addressing State Umno divisions, youth and wanita leaders at the Town Hall, Dr Mahathir said it was important for leaders at the various divisions to go down and meet every member individually and impress upon them the need to continue to support the party.

He said the country had been colonised for 400 years because the people were weak and now that they had realised how painful and embarrassing the situation was, it was time to ensure that the country's independence was maintained.

Colonisation could come

in many forms, he said, such as the speculative attacks on the currency resulting in the country becoming poorer.

Dr Mahathir also reiterated that Umno, unlike Opposition parties such as Pas, would not make promises it could not fulfil.

"It will only make promises if it knows that they can be delivered," he said, adding that Pas would promise anything as its priority was to win the election.

It has no concrete plans, Dr Mahathir said, and as such it would be impossible for the party to take over from Umno.

Dr Mahathir, who was accompanied by Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, is on a two-day working visit to Perak.

Soon after arriving at the Sultan Azlan Shah Airport this morning, he attended a closed-door meeting with the State Umno liaison committee at Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib's residence.

He then addressed State Umno members before having lunch with State BN leaders followed by a meeting.

Tonight he addressed a mammoth gathering at Perak Stadium.

Also present was Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob.

Earlier, during lunch, the

Menteri Besar presented RM67,505 to the Tabung Barisan Bertindak Kosovo.

The money, contribu-

tions from civil servants and individual donors, was presented to the Prime Minister.