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Our views are being accepted, says Dr Mahathir

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - Umno today does not only lead the Malaysian voice, but also speaks for the betterment of the region and the world, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said there were many shortcomings in the world order, but had been ignored by the powerful countries to safeguard their own interests.

"Malaysia's views which were initially rejected have now shown their rationale, thus the acceptance by many countries.

"These include the economic system, the fate of the oppressed Muslims, violation of human rights, democracy and foreign interference in domestic affairs," he added.

Dr Mahathir said this in his message in the souvenir programme to the two-day Johor Umno Convention in Batu Pahat beginning tomorrow, which will be opened by his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"The question is, are we ready to destroy and hand over sovereignty to the foreigners and those who are irresponsible."

Stressing the need for unity in Umno, he said: "Let us together protect the sovereignty and powers for the good of all," he said,

Dr Mahathir also touched on the struggle for Islam, in all aspects.

"It is not easy to have education, banking and insurance systems which are comprehensive and efficient and implemented the Islamic way. But we have implemented these.

"The Islamic world is also keen to learn from us. In stages, we are also introducing the Islamic legal system."

In his message, Abdullah said the support from and solidarity among Malaysians had enabled development programmes to be successfully implemented.

He said this unity was today once again tested, and the economy was under attack by outside parties who were not happy with the country's achievement.

"Political stability is also threatened. Once more our intelligence and patience are tested. Only our preparation to defend and to continue to strengthen our unity can ensure our continuing sovereignty."

Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, who is Johor Umno Liaison Committee chairman, said the convention would be an avenue for brainstorming to strengthen party solidarity.

"It is a platform for enhancing our commitment to Umno's struggle and to make this relevant with the times."

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