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Mahathir-Umno

UMNO MUST REMAIN STRONG TO DEFEND THE DIGNITY OF THE RACE, SAYS PM

IPOH, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Umno must remain strong not only to resist attempts to recolonise the country but to defend the dignity of the race and nation.

He said that Umno members have a role which should not be taken lightly, neglected or ignored but have a heavy responsibility, towards the race, religion and nation.

"This is Umno's struggle," he said at a meeting with leaders of Perak Umno divisions, Umno Youth and Wanita Umno, here.

Dr Mahathir, who is on a two-day visit here, said that Umno's struggle was very serious, not only to ensure that the race would not be colonised but become a progressive race, attaining the same status as those in the developed nations in the world.

As such, he said, Umno should not allow petty and minor issues to divide the party members.

"If we are divided, we will have less power and will be recolonised," said Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president.

He said to ensure that the Barisan Nasional (BN) and Umno remained in power, all party members should always strive to convince the people to continue to support the present government without having to wait for an election.

"But to ensure support, we cannot just say support Umno, support Umno...truly understand the foundation of the party's struggle to be able to convince the people on the need to support Umno," he said.

He said that Umno could not possibly win only with the votes of its members and should not be too confident that all its members would support Umno and the BN in the election.

In this respect, Umno leaders, whether at branch, divisional or higher level must make sure that they approach everyone of the Umno members, he said.

"Leaders at divisional level should plan measures and strategies to ensure that they approach all the Umno members...maintain a list of all members at divisional level and approach everyone of them," he said.

He said that there may be members suspected of not supporting the party and they should be approached to find out why they were not supporting the party and have opted to support the opposition parties.

"The party leaders must meet them and explain to them why they should continue to support the party because only Umno could ensure the independence of the nation," he said.

The prime minister said that foreign powers were constantly trying to colonise the nation by various means.

"However, due to Umno's strength and the Barisan Nasional government with its two-third majority in parliament and the state governments, they will not be able to dominate and colonise us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that if the BN were to win with only one extra vote, foreign colonialists could buy over the seat, instigate and do many things to erode the BN's strength to topple the coalition.

He said that if they succeeded to topple the present government like the other nations, they would select those they like to become leaders and indirectly, the country would be colonised.

"As such, the people should appreciate the strength of Umno and the BN to ensure the nation's independence and sovereignty," he said.

-- BERNAMA  
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