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`Party should be placed above self'

UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the party would not "dance to the tune" of others in pursuing its objectives.

"We believe in ourselves and will protect the party our own way. We will not follow or do what other people say."

In his winding-up speech, Dr Mahathir said Umno had faith in itself and would not need outside support. Neither would it rely on making slanderous remarks for support.

In jest, he recalled the numerous times he had been maligned by postings on the Internet. "Based on Internet reports, I have been dead four times. Yet, I am here."

The Prime Minister also told Umno members not to be mistaken by the attitude of civil servants. Not all civil servants, teachers, Petronas and Telekom Malaysia employees supported the Opposition.

"The truth is, many sympathise with the Government, but they don't show it."

On the selection of election candidates, he said Umno members should always place the party's interest above self and ensure victory for the candidate.

"Never mind who the candidate is. Just close your eyes, your ears and vote for the candidate."

He said the selection of candidates was a difficult task because the decision could not satisfy everyone. But the situation could be made easy if members placed party interest above others.

"Whoever is selected, the candidate must be accepted by all," he said. "Otherwise, we will lose."

The party did not belong to the president, supreme council members or certain individuals.

"It belongs to Umno. Hence, the vote should be for Umno."

(END)