

06/05/2000

Renew Umno's struggle (HL)

Ainon Mohd

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno members need to be imbued with new spirit and commitment towards the original party struggle and be aware of what awaits them if the party loses power, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Umno president said in any party movement, the spirit of struggle among the members could wither and their efforts to strive could decline after some time.

He said during such time, the members would be more interested in seeking wealth, involving in power struggle and working for positions than attaining the objective of their original struggles.

"Umno is no exception to this rule ... unless early measures are taken to contain the elements that can cause destruction," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the new generation who would lead the country needed to be inculcated with strong personal qualities such as integrity in all their dealings and willingness to serve the people selflessly.

Dr Mahathir said Umno members must also reject any deception and the use of money in securing positions.

This characteristic, he said, could be cultivated through training and self-discipline.

"Only spirited and dynamic new leaders with excellent qualities can continue with the struggles pioneered by previous leaders," Dr Mahathir said in his message in its annual report.

He said the Barisan Nasional's success in retaining the two-thirds majority in the last general election had proven wrong any speculations of BN's downfall.

Any sane person, he said, would continue to support the BN as they knew it could continue to develop the nation.

He said with their "narrow" policies which were contradictory to one another, the pact by the opposition parties was weak and not able to bring about peace and stability.

Dr Mahathir said since Umno's inception in 1946, it had implemented policies which had brought about many achievements and raised the people's living standard.

He reminded the people that though the country had achieved independence, there was "no guarantee that everything would be comfortable and easy.

"The security and unity we have enjoyed thus far can be ruined at the hands of irresponsible elements who base their actions merely on lust (nafsu)."

Lately, he said, when these people failed to achieve their demands, their tendency to stage demonstrations became more obvious.

The Government, he said, would not tolerate their actions any more as they had disrupted public order.

Dr Mahathir said stringent action had been taken to maintain order and prevent the situation from becoming unruly.

"In a situation where there are always new challenges and our resilience is tested all the time, we need a strong Government and efficient party machinery."

The propaganda of the Opposition, he said, must be countered and plans must be made to ensure that the party's future was assured.

Dr Mahathir said Umno, being an experienced party which had managed the country well and had been successful in looking after the welfare of the

people, would will continue to play an effective role.  
(END)