

Umno to study polls quota system

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■ By NICK LEONG

GUA MUSANG: Umno will examine the quota system of electing leaders at division level if it is the cause of money politics in the party, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The system requires a candidate to secure 20% of nominations to contest the division chief's post, 15% to contest the deputy chief's post and 10% to contest the vice-president's post.

"I can only say now that I will look into the matter. I am prepared to examine every view," he said yesterday.

Gua Musang Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said he had received a lot of complaints from members that the system was the cause of money politics in the party election. He said the system seemed to favour the wealthy instead of the capable.

Tengku Razaleigh, who is an Umno supreme council member said PAS leaders should not be over-confident because Umno would eventually recapture Kelantan, Terengganu and other seats currently held by PAS.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said PAS leaders were not interested in developing the country.

"They only teach the people to hate ... hate the Government, hate Umno, its leaders and me," he added.

He said the country, since its independence, could have become more developed than what it is today if not for the self-styled Islamic party.

"Unfortunately, we have a party (PAS) that is willing to betray the people, religion and the country," he said at the opening of the Gua Musang Umno division meeting.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, also accused PAS of betraying the Ma-

lays by distracting youths from their studies at schools and universities.

"We build universities and set aside a 60% quota for Malay students so that they will acquire the necessary knowledge to develop the country.

"But they are told (by PAS leaders) not to learn secular knowledge.

"As a result, Malay students get poorer results compared to the non-Malays," he said.

He said PAS also betrayed Islam by accusing Muslims who worked with non-Muslims as infidels.

"If there is an infidel party, it is called PAS."

When asked to comment on Tengku Razaleigh's remarks that he (Dr Mahathir) should remain as party president and prime minister until Kelantan and Terengganu were recaptured, he said he would keep on working as long as the people wanted him to.