

It's time to close ranks, says Dr M

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All should support candidates both old and new who won in divisional elections: Umno president

By **R. Manirajan**

manirajan@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad advised party members to close ranks now that divisional elections are concluded.

He said everyone should give their support to candidates who

have won regardless of whether they are new or old faces.

"With the elections over now, their (Umno members and leaders) duty is to support those who won," he said when asked on the 37 new faces elected in the recently-concluded party divisional elections.

Mahathir, who is also the prime minister, was speaking to reporters after attending the Head of Mission Conference at a hotel in Seri Kem-

bangan today.

Eighty-six Malaysian ambassadors, high commissioners, consuls general and consuls overseas attended the six-day conference.

Asked about certain Umno Youth chiefs who contested for the division chief post despite being viewed as "being greedy by certain quarters", Mahathir said: "I think one should be content with one post.

"But in certain divisions, there

are some who contested for a particular post as well as another lower position just in case they lose one."

The division elections that concluded on Sunday saw 37 new faces, while the remaining 123 divisions retained incumbents. Another five divisions had their meetings suspended.

However, yesterday, the party management committee directed four divisions - Silam division in

Sabah, Jelutong (Penang), Bukit Bintang (Kuala Lumpur) and Gombak (Selangor) - to reconvene their meetings by the end of this month.

The Kuantan division in Pahang cannot hold its meeting because the disciplinary board has not completed its investigation on allegation of money politics made by Beserah assemblymen Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman.