

Dr M: Some things just have to be said

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Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there are certain parties who might be unhappy with the contents of his speech but "there is nothing I can do about it".

"Some people do not like to be told the truth. However, they have to be told that they're not doing the right things and that it's time to correct them," he told a press conference at the end of the second day of the Umno general assembly.

However, he was optimistic that there is a large number of Umno members who support his call and will heed the warning.

Asked if his actions would affect votes for him in the future, Mahathir said: "If they won't vote for me, what can I do?"

He added: "As a leader, if I am going to follow them,

then I am a follower. I have to lead. I have to tell people this is the way to go."

Commenting on issues raised in yesterday's debate, he denied claims by certain delegates that there are politicians who hold too many government posts and this affects their concentration.

"It is not true as far as government agencies are concerned," he said.

"There used to be many people holding posts in private companies though. But that was before (former finance minister) Tun Daim (Zainuddin) reduced the limit of directorship.

"Now even those people have resigned. One example is my son Mirzan, who relinquished his corporate posts."

To a question, Mahathir said all quarters in Umno, including ministers, did

indeed get to the ground to be close to the masses.

However, compared to the visits that he made to the ground, those by ministers and the other party members did not get wide media coverage, Mahathir said.