

# PM: Maintain strength

Resolve internal problems for the sake of the Barisan Nasional, Mahathir tells MCA

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged MCA members to protect the party and resolve their internal problems so as to maintain the party's strength for the sake of the Barisan Nasional (BN) and the country.

"Although there may be differences of opinions, the fact is that you are one race, one party. So take good care of the party for the sake of BN and in the interest of the Malaysian race.

"I pray that MCA continues to progress and remain strong," Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said when opening the MCA 48th annual general assembly here today.

Mahathir said MCA is a vital BN component party, which together with Umno

formed the backbone of BN.

"The cooperation between the two parties has brought about success to the extent that the Opposition is trying to imitate the BN, but imitations do not have quality.

"The cooperation be-

tween Umno and MCA is the foundation of stability for all political parties in BN and the country," he said.

Mahathir said there was a time when Umno was weak as the party was deemed illegal and had no

place in the country, and MCA, as the other part of the backbone, took over the management of the country well.

"When Umno Baru was set up, we could still bring development through good cooperation, strengthen the

backbone and rejuvenate the BN," he said.

Mahathir expressed gratitude to MCA which he said remained loyal to Umno when the latter was going through a crisis and likewise, Umno will continue to remain loyal to MCA.