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Mahathir-Umno

DON'T GO FOR POSTS IN UMNO FOR PERSONAL INTERESTS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

JOHOR BAHRU, June 15 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded party members that they should not vie for positions in Umno for personal interests.

He said people were not remembered or appreciated because of their position but because of their contributions and deeds.

"A member need not hold any post to contribute to the party," he said in his message in the souvenir book in conjunction with the Johor Umno Convention, here tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir, who is also prime minister, said as a party that had succeeded in uniting the Malays to fight for independence, Umno should not be bogged down by issues that could affect its image.

He called on members to return to the original struggles of the party to champion the cause of religion, race and country, adding that they needed to strengthen the resilience of the Malays so that they would not succumb to the colonisation of the mind, culture and economy from abroad.

Dr Mahathir also touched on money politics which he said could become "cancerous" that could destroy the party into oblivion.

"This disease must be prevented and treated effectively. Let's not sell our soul, soon we would lose our dignity and country," he said.

He said in line with the increase in membership, which was expected to reach three million, Umno must prove to every Malay that it was the best platform to champion their cause.

Dr Mahathir hoped Johor, which was the birth place of Umno, would be able to continue its role in contributing to the strength of the party as had been proven all this while.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who will officially open the Johor Umno Convention tomorrow night, said in his message that after having succeeded in managing the agenda for the Malay socio-economic and political development, it was now time for Umno to continue the struggles to uplift the dignity of the Malays.

About 400 delegates and observers from 20 Umno divisions in Johor will participate in the two-day annual convention held as a prelude to the Umno general assembly.

-- BERNAMA

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