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Dr M's call to Umno members

Ainon Mohd

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno must prove to its members and the Malays that the party is the best platform to fight for their future.

He added there must also be a distinct and noble attitude among Umno members, among both leaders and grassroot members.

In its short period of existence, Umno membership was expected to reach three million.

"God willing, this will make Umno the party with the highest membership in the country.

"This development only reflects the trust and confidence placed by the Malays in the party's capabilities to uphold the religion, race and country," Dr Mahathir said at the Johor Umno convention.

Money politics had become a cancer in Umno which had given rise to the perception that the party would one day be destroyed and disappear from the face of this earth.

Dr Mahathir said since its inception in 1946, Umno had remained relevant to the Malays.

"Even though we have gone through dark periods, it has actually made us more aware and mature while at the same time made members act wisely to ensure that more important agenda can be accomplished."

Members were also reminded not to join the party because of their desire for positions and self-interest.

"One will not be remembered and appreciated because of his position but his contributions to the party. A member does not need to have a position to contribute to the party."

As a party which had successfully united the Malays to demand for independence and later develop the race, Umno must not be burdened with issues that can threaten its dignity.

"Realise this and go back to the original struggle to uphold religion, race and country.

"The challenges that we are facing are too great. Thus, emphasis must be given to enhance the identity of the Malays so that we will not fall prey to colonisation of the minds, culture and economy from outside."