

'Continue Umno's struggle'

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Dr M questions members' commitment

■ By ZULKIFLI ABD RAHMAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Some Umno members were rapped for lacking in fighting spirit and commitment which has affected the support for the party.

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad drew comparison with pre-Merdeka Umno members who had sacrificed their time and effort for the country without asking for anything in return.

"But now, we find that the fighting spirit is declining when they ask what they will get if they support Umno. There are also some who ask what they received after struggling to be Umno members for 15 to 20 years," he said in his speech when opening the general meeting of the Overseas Umno Clubs Alumni at the PWTC here last night.

He cited the Pendang and Anak Bukit by-elections had recorded smaller majority because of what he described as reduced support from the

Malays for Umno.

"There were occasions where some members even sulked when they did not get *duit*, (money) or *nasi lemak*.

"Some sulked when they

see members from other states come to help. The locals will say 'If they are so clever, let them do the job'.

"Some threatened to close down operations centres. Some even support the oppo-

sition candidate when the candidate of their choice was not selected. They were hoping this candidate chosen by the party will lose," he added.

The Prime Minister ad-

vised members to instil a new spirit to meet the challenges in the party's struggle.

Umno members, he said, should also not deny that the struggle of Umno had all this while resulted in prosperity for them.

"Umno's struggle will not put benefits straight into their pocket, but can they enjoy school facilities, roads, water and electricity supplies if not for Umno?" he added.

He also hoped the alumni members would continue the party's struggle, adding that the important thing was the fight for the race, religion and country.

"We want to be a respected race in the world but there is a lot of things that must be done. The Malays are not weak. Our abilities are at par with others and we must work harder."

Also present were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Umno vice-presidents Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein.