

Members in no mood for conflict

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the current mood among party members is one that is against any kind of conflict within the party.

The prime minister said he is confident that a mood such as this, if sustained, would help the party win back lost ground in the coming general election.

He also said that should such a mood prevail until the Umno elections next year, unity within the party would remain strong despite the tough competition for posts.

At a press conference after day one of the 54th Umno General Assembly yesterday, Mahathir said he felt spirits were high among the speakers and delegates as they were all in support of the fact that there should not be any conflict and challenge within the party.

He said resolving problems beforehand should be the approach taken to prevent any conflict at next year's party election.

"I feel that the spirit of Umno is strong. They (the party members) support our move to prevent such

conflicts and have also shown strong support for Pak Lah (Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi)," he said.

Asked if some of the speakers had gone overboard in praising him, Mahathir said there was no need for them to do so but felt that the praises were for the party leadership and not him.

He also said he was not stepping down as the Umno president at the end of the assembly tomorrow.

"I will step down from all my positions in October," he said.