

# Maintain values, Umno leaders told

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**PETALING JAYA:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded Umno leaders to upkeep the noble values of the party and to avoid jostling for power after he steps down at the end of next month.

The Prime Minister, who is also Umno president, gave this advice following speculations of a tussle for the deputy president's post after Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi moves up to lead the party in November.

Dr Mahathir, who spoke to reporters on arrival from Monaco at the RMAF base in Subang, near here, was asked to comment on a recent speech in which he called for undivided support for Abdullah, his appointed successor.

Dr Mahathir made the call at a mammoth rally at Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur last week to mark the 50th year of power-sharing among government component parties.

While he was clear about his successor, there had been speculations about the person who will step into Abdullah's shoes as Deputy Prime Minister and deputy Umno president.

Dr Mahathir said he was confident that Umno members as well as those of the other parties in the coalition would see to it that unity among them is intact.

"I am sure that even if there were to be some fight for power in the component parties, in the end it will be resolved amicably," he said.

On his address at the 58th UN General Assembly where he called for a revamp of the UN Security Council and other reforms, Dr Mahathir said it

was not likely that the five permanent members of the council – the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China – would support any move to rearrange the set-up if it meant being dislodged from their seats or losing their influence.

However, he stressed that the rest of the world must continue to push for changes even if the road towards reform is long and arduous.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that some countries were only good at talking about democracy and wanted others to also be democratic, but had them-

selves resorted to using force to get the other nations to follow their democracy.

"It is very obvious that the majority of UN member countries are unhappy over the current situation," he said.

Dr Mahathir had proposed to the world body that in order to stop a resolution from being carried through, a veto should come from at least two permanent members of the security council and supported by three non-permanent members, instead of just from one permanent member currently.