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Dr M sure Umno will maintain 100pc electoral record in Johor

JOHOR BARU, Fri. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that the unity shown by party members in Johor will enable Umno to maintain its 100 per cent electoral record in the State.

He called on Johor Umno members to maintain their unity and strive harder to ensure another clean sweep by Barisan Nasional in the next general election.

"A victory for Umno and its BN partners will be crucial in securing a better future for the younger generation. It will also enable us to defend the country's sovereignty and enhance its status in the world community."

Dr Mahathir said this in his welcoming address, contained in the Johor Umno Convention 2003 booklet.

The two-day convention, to be held at the Eden Garden Hotel here, will be opened by Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said the convention should be used as a platform by Johor Umno leaders and their BN counterparts to forge a closer co-operation and consolidate their strength in view of the change of party leadership and the creation of new electoral areas in the State.

"I also hope this convention will be a launch pad for more excellent achievements by the party in the State," he added.

Abdullah, in his message as contained in the booklet, also stressed on the importance of Umno members to maintain their unity to preserve the party's position as the sole entity representing the interests of Malays and Muslims in the country.

He said Umno needed to work harder in its struggles now that Muslims all over the world were being pressured and Malays were proven to be still lagging in various fields.

Johor Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, in his message, said Umno members should not be complacent if they wanted to remain as the main party of Malays.

"Without solid unity, Malays and other races in this country will be at risk of being recolonised by foreign powers. If previously we were geographically colonised, now there is the risk of us being either mentally, culturally or economically controlled by them." Ghani, who is also the Menteri Besar, said due to such a threat, the Johor Umno convention would be an important event for party members to reaffirm their commitment to defending the interests of the people.