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Dr M tells Malays: Be bold in facing challenges

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Malays in the country should be more bold and willing to face challenges.

In his parting speech as party president, Dr Mahathir said the formation of "Melayu Baru" or "New Malays" should be renewed so that the race could be on par with other communities in the world. He said Malays could be successful if they changed their values to suit those needed to become a progressive race.

"There is still a lot to be done in terms of changing one's attitude towards a more advanced and progressive one. We must eliminate our tendency to quarrel and indulge in power-struggles. Money politics must be a thing of the past," he said while breaking the fast with Umno leaders and members at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir called on Umno members to set aside personal interests and place the party above all.

"We should love Umno and so we must develop the party. We should not destroy the party merely to promote self-interest."

He said the party was the Government and not just any individual and as such, party members and leaders must work together to ensure the overall success of Umno.

Dr Mahathir thanked all Umno members who had supported him and urged them to continue supporting his successor, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Dr Mahathir and Abdullah later joined Umno leaders and members in performing the magrib, isyak and terawih prayers at PWTC.