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Dr M: Place party above self

UMNO president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged all party members to place importance on the party and not fight for positions or personal gain.

Dr Mahathir said the priority now was to prepare for the general election and meet the expectations of the people. Support must be given to all candidates selected by the party leadership, he added.

This advice was given by Dr Mahathir at a closed-door briefing to delegates ahead of the general assembly tomorrow, according to party leaders who attended the briefing yesterday.

Dr Mahathir urged leaders to serve not just party members, but also those outside the party.

He said leaders should look at their positions not as a means of serving their personal interests, but those of their followers.

Party vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Dr Mahathir stressed the qualities of a good leader.

"He said we must not place importance on personal gain or attempt to satisfy the needs of those aligned to us.

"The leadership concept must be adhered to and we must be sensitive to the people's problems."

Vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said Dr Mahathir had emphasised that Umno leaders must put the party above self.

"Members must be united and avoid fighting for posts to preserve the strength of the party."

Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said Dr Mahathir wanted the members to work selflessly to win in the general election and not fight among themselves and destroy the party.

Sabah Umno liaison committee head Datuk Musa Aman said the president's advice was timely.

"What is important is that for the next election, whoever is chosen as a candidate must be accepted. There should not be any squabbling as what is important is the party.

"Sabah Barisan Nasional will also adhere to the advice of the party leadership."

Selangor Umno liaison committee head Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said whoever were chosen as candidates must be given full support.

"Do not create problems for the candidates as, in the end, it will be the party that suffers."

Kedah Umno liaison chief Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said Dr Mahathir advised delegates to view their positions as responsibilities instead of opportunities for them to enrich themselves and acquire power.

"It's a big responsibility for those with the highest posts."

Johor Umno liaison committee chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman said the most important message from Dr Mahathir's address was that all members should concentrate on preparing the party for the coming general election.

"He stressed that our loyalty should strictly remain with the party and not to individual candidates.

"It should not matter who is selected as an election candidate because the fact remains that what is important is the work we have to do for the people, not who will get the positions."

Perlis Umno liaison committee head Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said Dr Mahathir wanted all Umno members to give priority to party affairs.

"We can only serve the people well if we understand their problems and find ways to overcome them."