



# THE BATTLE FOR No. 1

**DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD**, 62, Prime Minister and Umno president since 1981.

Dr Mahathir was elected Umno president at the party's 32nd general assembly on June 26, 1981. He then took office as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister on July 10 following the retirement of his predecessor, Tun Hussein Onn. Dr Mahathir became a member of the Umno Supreme Council from 1965 to 1969 and one of the party's vice-presidents in 1975.

He was elected to the post of Umno deputy president on Sept 15, 1978. He was first elected to the Barisan Nasional Cabinet in 1974 as Education Minister under the late Tun Abdul Razak.

On March 5, 1976, he was appointed Deputy Prime Minister while holding the Education portfolio. He was given the Trade and Industry portfolio on Jan 1, 1978.

Dr Mahathir, born in Alor Star, Kedah, first became active in politics in 1945 when he joined several organisations among which were the Kedah Malay Union, Saberkas, the Kedah Malay Youth Movement and later Umno.

A graduate of the University of Malaya, Singapore, he

obtained his medical degree in 1947.

He completed his housemanship in 1954 and served the Government as a medical officer in Alor Star, Langkawi and Perlis.

He resigned from Government service in 1957 and went into private practice.

Dr Mahathir stood as an Alliance candidate in 1964 and won the Kota Setar Selatan parliamentary seat but lost it in the 1969 election.

However, in the 1974 election, he was returned unopposed in the Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency.

In 1973, he was appointed a senator. The same year, he was also appointed the chairman of the Food Industry of Malaysia (Fima) Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir was appointed chairman of the First Higher Education Council in 1968. In 1972, he became a member of the Higher Education Advisory Council.

He was also appointed a member of the University Court and the University of Malaya Council and in April 1974, chairman of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Council.

Dr Mahathir has received nominations from 88 divisions to contest the presidency.