

FOR PRESIDENT

Party chief since 1981

NST 24 APR 1987

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, 62, has been the Prime Minister and Umno president since 1981. He was elected Umno president at the party's 32nd general assembly on June 26, 1981. He took office as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister on July 10 following the retirement of Tun Hussein Onn.

Dr Mahathir became a member of the Umno Supreme Council from 1965 to 1969 and a vice-president in 1975. He then became Umno deputy president on Sept 15, 1978.

He was first appointed to the Cabinet by the late Tun Abdul Razak in 1974 where he held the Education portfolio. 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, 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.

He graduated with a medical de-

gree from the University of Malaya, Singapore, in 1947.

After completing his housemanship, he served the Government as a medical officer in Alor Star, Langkawi and Perlis.

He went into private practice in 1957 and stood as an Alliance candidate in 1964, winning the Kota Star Selatan parliamentary seat.

However, he lost it in the 1969 election. In 1973, he was appointed a Senator.

In the 1974 election, he was elected unopposed to the Kubang Pasu parliamentary seat.

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 (UKM) Council.

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