

# DR M: BERSATU WILL NOT BE LIKE UMNO

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'Party to woo more members, but not the Umno way'

ROSLI ZAKARIA AND  
HANNEEYDAH BARIAH BAHARIN  
KUALA TERENGGANU  
cnews@nstp.com.my

**P**ARTI Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) said it is confident it can attract more members despite not being able to offer wealth and perks like Umno.

Chairman Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the party aims to discontinue the "corrupt practices" of Umno leaders, who were

known to accumulate wealth when in power.

"We are growing. Today the party received 5,141 application forms, and we will continue to attract new members, including from Umno, who will be subjected to thorough scrutiny before they can be accepted.

"We are like Umno, but in the past. It (Umno) had few members in the beginning, but grew larger when perks were offered. However, we (Bersatu) are not going to give perks to new members,"

he said after opening the state Bersatu headquarters in Ladang Tok Pelam here yesterday.

Present were state Bersatu chairman Datuk Razali Idris and state Pakatan Harapan representatives.

Dr Mahathir said Bersatu was not desperate for members to the point that it would resort to using Umno's way of offering positions to people.

"If we become like Umno, we will fail too. That is why we cannot be like the old government.

"If we do the same thing, the people will reject us. When I was the prime minister before, many came to me claiming that they had been Umno members for many years, but gained nothing (from the party). So I know their ways."

Dr Mahathir said the government was hoping to shape the new generation to be more competent and able to adopt and incorporate new approaches to meet global challenges.

"Malays, especially, need help or they will be in a worse condition if they fail to adapt to new technologies.

"In agriculture, for example, we cannot continue using obsolete technologies.

"That is why Malays can't keep up with others.

"The younger generation must also be prepared for a time when we no longer use cash, but where transactions are made at the touch of buttons on the mobile phone.

"If you are not ready for the future, you will be poor.

"If we don't grasp knowledge, you will be cheated and become even poorer.

"Our children need to learn new ways to live."