

# Dr M not satisfied with his work

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he is "not satisfied" with what he has achieved during his 22-year tenure as Prime Minister and Umno president because "there is a lot more that can be done."

"I must admit I have failed in many areas. I have to admit there are many things I have failed to do. But I have done something. But it is not for me to determine whether what I have done is good or bad but it is for the people," he said after

chairing his last Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

The Umno president will hand in his resignation at 3pm today and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will be the new acting president.

The outgoing Prime Minister said it was all right with him if people forgot his contributions over time.

"That's very human. I'm not worried about that. People can forget," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that when he became Prime Minister 22 years ago, he asked people not to put up his photos anywhere

- not in government offices or schools - and they respected that for a while, before putting up his picture anyway.

He also said that when he was Education Minister, he initiated a rule that no school should be named after living politicians, which was a norm before that.

"I don't care whether people remember me or not," he said.

At the council meeting, Dr Mahathir formally informed the council that his resignation would take effect at 3pm today and in accordance with the party constitution, Abdullah

would be the acting president until the next Umno elections.

He said the question of appointing an acting deputy president did not arise at the council meeting because there was no provision for this in the party constitution.

When asked if Abdullah had indicated to the council who he was going to pick as his new deputy, Dr Mahathir said: "No. He's very mysterious."

Dr Mahathir said Umno believed in power-sharing and working closely with other races and parties.

To a question on why Malay-

sian politics was still based on racial lines, Dr Mahathir said the country had done better than most countries with multi-racial populations.

"While we can't say we are one race, we are very much harmonious in our attitude to each other than other countries," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he noticed that Asians and Africans in Europe and the United States were discriminated against, and there was now discrimination against Muslims on grounds that they were terrorists when in fact not all terror-

ists were Muslims.

"It is good for these countries to focus on how to unite their own people rather than run other people's countries," he said.

At the press conference, Abdullah said the council thanked Dr Mahathir for his service and pledged to carry on the party's struggle and policies. He said Umno appreciated Dr Mahathir's leadership and guidance by way of example.

"We wish the president a happy retirement, happy life and good health," Abdullah said.