

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 20 / 11 / 2008

Dr M: I will stay vocal on Umno

NST-20/11/2008

PUTRAJAYA: Former Umno president Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said he would continue talking about the party and issues facing it as "Umno is a part of me".

He said he had every right to talk about Umno although he was no longer a party member.

"Whether they (Umno leaders) like it or not, I will not stop talking about Umno which I have led for 22 years.

"I feel Umno is very much a part of me. I need to observe Umno's movements and actions because this party belongs to all Malays, members as well as non-members. I will continue to open my big mouth for the sake of the party and the Malays."

He said this at a dialogue session on current issues faced by the party at the Yayasan Kepimpinan Perdana.

Dr Mahathir said Umno and the Barisan Nasional would not have won in the general elections if not for votes by non-members who had been supporting its cause and fights.

On money politics, Dr Mahathir said it was also present in the MCA.

"... lots of money changed hands (in the MCA elections). Sensible voters will definitely reject corrupt BN leaders and corrupt ministers.

"This is the fate waiting for them in the 13th general election if the scourge is not wiped out."