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THE STAR

DATE: 23/11/2008

Mahathir warns of the new Malay dilemma of money politics

The Star - 23/11/2008

KUALA LUMPUR: The new Malay dilemma will be who to vote for in the next general election, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Given a choice between an Umno which he claims is corrupt and an Opposition party that may not guarantee Malay rights, Dr Mahathir said

they would have three options in the 13th general election.

"You could vote for Umno but then that would mean you would be endorsing corruption," he said in reference to the alleged rampant money politics in the ruling Malay party.

"The alternative is to vote for

Pakatan Rakyat. But can we be sure they will protect Malay rights?"

Dr Mahathir said the third option would be to not vote at all but by doing so the possibility of Umno being returned to power was high.

He said that the March 8 election result was the direct result of those

unhappy with the ruling coalition giving their vote to the Opposition.

"Party leaders are so taken into the culture of money politics because they had been given positions, titles or money that they support without question," he said at a forum on the Malay Dilemma organised by the Federation of National Writers

Association (Gapena).

"That is why there is this transition of power in March next year. They are finding the easy way out with no confrontation so they can save the face of this or that person."

Dr Mahathir said the dilemma could not be solved unless Umno is clean.