

Mahathir lashes out at extremism

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KUALA LUMPUR.
Thurs. — Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad) has spoken of the need for Umno to continue to be moderate and work with the other communities for the survival of the party and the nation.

He said: "Part of the Umno strategy which has given it victory since 1951 is moderation and willingness to work with other parties so long as it does not jeopardise the aims of Umno's struggle.

"This strategy is vital because the collapse of other parties, other races, in fact, other countries, is caused by greed and extremist attitudes."

Opening the Umno Youth and Wanita general assemblies at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka here today, Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir, who is also Umno vice-president, added: "It is better that we succeed only to a practical extent rather than to try to grab all but

in the end gain nothing."

He made it clear that Umno's moderation did not stem from a lack of courage but was founded on rational consideration unswayed by emotions and passions.

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He cautioned Umno leaders, particularly the young ones, against attempts by the party's enemies "to divorce us from this basis" of Umno's success.

On the question of "Malayness" and "Bumiputraness," he said "it is quite easy for us to be goaded by our enemies into striving to show that we are more chauvinistic than they are."

"The defeat of several Umno candidates in the 1969 and 1978 elections originated from attempts by some of our own people

to prove that our chauvinism is stronger than our enemies' and to turn away the moderation which has been the basis of Umno's struggle."

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir told the Youth and the Wanita: "You who will inherit Umno should therefore understand the basis for Umno's moderation and

'Don't be swayed by extremist attitude'

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why this moderation is necessary in the political context of our nation."

He reminded them that the extremist attitude of opposition parties is just a show and strategy, and "we should not be swayed."

"The young generation, youth and wanita alike, must from now on communicate to their own peers and the other communities that they will carry on Umno's present stand."

The Deputy Prime Minister also dealt at length on the transfer of power in Umno from the old generation to the new which, he said, needed to be organised now.

He said: "The way power is transferred in Umno is vital for its struggle and its survival. Seizure of power a la coup is undesirable because a coup begets a coup.

"Therefore I hope the young generation in the party will treat it as tradition. Do not believe in the new just because it is new," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir said the choice of leaders should not bring about a situation where the defeated faction "isolates itself and turns its back on the party if the concept of democracy is truly understood."

"After the leaders have been chosen, all who love and are loyal to the party and who believe in its struggle must close ranks and lend their full support to the chosen leadership."

He added: "This is the biggest and most vital of Umno traditions.... This is the tradition which has preserved Umno. This tradition must be understood by those who will inherit Umno so that this practice can be perpetuated..."

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