

# GOVT WON'T BOW TO DEMANDS, SAYS Dr M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Government knows that it cannot be controlled by one community and will not submit to the demands of one community alone, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Speaking at the opening of the FT MCA Convention "Towards a Better Future" at the MCA building here he said: "In another convention organised by another community, several changes were called for. But the Government turned down the requests".

Referring to the Barisan Nasional concept of government he added: "We think we have found the correct formula that works well for this country."

"The system that we practice is the one which works well. "Some of our friends have tried other types of systems but they have failed."

Dr Mahathir warned that Malaysians should

be wary of calls for changes in the political system.

"Changes may cause destruction to the form and policies that we have been practising. Before we call for changes, let us consider whether these changes are necessary."

"Before changing this system we should ask if it would be for the better or for the worse," he said.

"Let us not call for changes merely for the sake of changing," he added.

## CHANGES

Dr Mahathir said if changes are necessary then they must be coordinated. This is because the various different races may want changes of their own, he said.

To the Chinese community, Dr Mahathir said it should bear in mind that it is not an ordinary community of Chinese but a community of Malaysian Chinese.

"The 'Malaysian' side of you must recognise that you are living along side other communities.

Other communities are as sensitive as you are."

In this respect, he said: "Whatever you say would be heard by all — not only by the Malays and Indians but also the Ibans and Kadazans and even the outside world. Therefore every word you say must be weighed carefully."

"What you say can have a serious impact on the nation," he said.

He said Malaysia has been able to sustain its peace, progress and stability for 24 years since independence because the system in force worked well.

In a short span of 24 years he observed that Malaysia has achieved tremendous progress.

"We had with us a very serious racial problem disparities, and a lack of cohesion among the races. There was also a serious communist threat to overthrow the Government through violence."

"But despite all these, we have managed to run the country well. Our record is unprecedented among countries which achieved independence at the same time," he said.

Other countries which achieved independence at the same time, he said, have deteriorated in terms of progress. Their growth have been stifled and their conditions are worse than when they were colonised.

Dr Mahathir said if we made a comparison between what has been achieved so far and what we want for ourselves, we would not be so satisfied.

"However, we cannot achieve 100 per cent of what we want. This is because there are several factors which need to be considered."

As an example, Dr Mahathir quoted the Constitution under which certain matters cannot be questioned on sensitive grounds.

"We have succeeded because we conformed to the need to submit to certain restrictions."

## UNIQUE

"We may not like the present political system of parties based on race. But the system is the one that works well," Dr Mahathir said.

The Barisan Nasional he said, is unique as a coalition.

"It is a coalition that comes before the elections and is not based on the inability to govern due to a lack of majority."

Because the coalition is a pre-planned and a pre-mediated concept, it has been able to be sustained for 24 years, he said.

As such he said, we should be careful about wanting to change.