

Changes can be disruptive,

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warns Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** today warned the people to be careful before demanding changes for the country.

Changes, he said, should not be asked for the sake of changing things but must be considered if they would be for the better or for the worse.

The Prime Minister, opening a one-day MCA Federal Territory convention here, said changes caused disruption in the society.

"We must think if they are necessary, as the sys-

tem we have practised so far in the country have brought us to where we are today," he said.

"We must remember that there are other people in the country who also want changes, and the Government knows that it cannot submit to the demands of just one community."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there were a lot of people, especially foreigners, who urged changes onto the governing system of a country because they believed they were "very clever."

However, the new systems brought about by

the foreigners have generally been for the worse to that country, he said, citing Vietnam, Kampuchea, Afghanistan and Iran as examples.

He said that it was natural for the people to improve themselves but in doing so they should also consider their limitations and the factors beyond their control.

'Unique'

Malaysian leaders have realised the limitations and have had them institutionalised.

It was mainly because of the consideration of

the uncontrollable factors that the country has managed to progress beyond expectations.

"We have serious racial problems, but despite that, we have remained, except for the 1969 incident, peaceful and arrived at where we are today," he said.

"The wise man considers factors beyond his control when planning for himself."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the MCA was the correct vehicle and organisation to discuss the problems, fears and anxieties faced by the Chinese community,

because it represents the majority of the Malaysian Chinese.

"The Malaysian side of you," he told the applauding audience, "must recognise that you are living in a country where there are other races.

"Just as you are sensitive, so are the other races. You cannot speak to just one select group."

Everything, he said, spoken in the convention would be heard by everyone else in the country thanks to the mass media.

Thus it is important for one to say things with circumspect and due consideration to the people who were listening, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that the present political system in the country and its race-based political parties were the only successful formula for Malaysia's multi-racial society.

Others have tried other ways but they have failed, he said.

"Our present system, our coalition, is a unique one, because it is a coalition which is premeditated and comes before an election," he said.

"It is not a coalition made because one party is unable to govern due to a lack of majority."

He reiterated that any changes sought must be thought about carefully because presently, the system works.