

Govt policies: 'Direct criticism at implementation'

Question no more: Mahathir

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PENANG, Sat. — National policy principles which have been agreed upon by the people should not be questioned by anyone, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Policies such as the New Economic Policy and the National Education Policy have been accepted by a

majority of the people and "therefore criticism should be directed at their implementation only," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said this when opening the 29th MIC general assembly at the Dewan Tuanku Syed Putra at Universiti Sains Malaysia here this morning.

"The government can only correct the interpretation and implementation of these policies. Constructive criticism would be given due consideration," he said.

The government, he added, would not change basic policies at the whims and fancies of anyone.

"Everyone should accept this, in particular the Barisan Nasional component parties," he added.

The Prime Minister said the important thing was not the creation of new policies but the implementation of existing ones in a fair and just manner in line with their objectives.

Admitting that there could be weaknesses in implementation sometimes, the Prime Minister welcomed criticism of these shortcomings.

He said such weaknesses should

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be corrected immediately.

He reminded everyone, especially Barisan component parties, that they should always be cautious when making suggestions or putting forward requests.

They should ensure that such suggestions and requests would not

create misunderstandings or uneasiness among the people, thus disrupting unity, he added.

He reminded component parties that they should fully understand the form and the basis of the Barisan Nasional coalition.

Without the proper understanding of this, "challenges" might arise and this could weaken the Barisan, the government and national stability, he said.

Calling on Indians to remember that they were Malaysian Indians, he said they should give no cause for anyone to question their identity.

He praised the MIC for its role in strengthening the Barisan and its contributions towards the nation's development.

Earlier, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was given a grand welcome accompanied by "nathaswaram" music.

MIC president Datuk Samy Vellu then garlanded the Prime Minister as the latter took his seat. Also present were leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties, including Sarawak Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Amar Taib Mahmud, Gerakan president Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Penang Acting Chief Minister Datuk Teh Ewe Lim, Usno president Datuk Mustapha Datu Harun and MCA deputy president Datuk Richard Ho.