

'GIVE AND TAKE' IS VITAL, SAYS DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — A give-and-take attitude amongst the communities is essential to prevent the demands of one community from being too excessive, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He added that excessive demands would be unacceptable to the rest of the communities.

The spirit of give and take had made, it necessary for the Government to make many trade-offs which had helped to ensure the prosperity and stability of the country, he said at a dinner to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the Federal Territory Gerakan party.

He said that although it was ideal to have a non-communal party like the Gerakan, the fact of life was that many people in the country still felt apprehensive about the position of their communities.

This apprehension had led to the grouping into different communal parties, he said. However, communalities were not exclusive and long the pre-independence days, Umno decided to work with the MCA.

This willingness had increased over the years and more parties were now co-operating with Umno in the Barisan Nasional he added. "The Barisan Nasional represents every community in this country. It does not belong to one particular community only," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that the people should realise that although they had their differences, it was far better to debate these differences in an organised manner than to create instability.

However, Malaysia was lucky in that the people were led by responsible leaders and the political parties were also well led, he said.

He also assured the people that the laws passed by the Government were for the good of the country, and not good for the Government alone.

"If the Government passes laws which seem oppressive, please remember that they are designed to overcome the kind of oppression that you do not like. "If we have a society where anarchy prevails, no one will be happy," he said.

He hoped that in time to come, the people would realise why Government had formulated these laws.

The chairman of the Federal Territory, Dr Tan Tiong Hong, urged Chinese guilds and associations not to be unduly worried about the Government's amendments to the Societies Act.

He said that guilds and associations need not rush to convert into political societies.

"Guilds and associations have contributed tremendously to the peace and prosperity of the country and they should have no fear that the Government will act against them," he said.

Dr Tan added that the amendments to the Societies Act were made to ensure discipline and order.