

# ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE TRIPLE THREATS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Barisan Nasional will carry out an all-out onslaught against the triple threats of racialism, chauvinism and extremism, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister and Barisan chairman said that all Barisan component parties had given an assurance that they would put in extra efforts to fight these trends.

He was speaking to reporters after chairing the coalition's Supreme Council meeting at its headquarters in the Umno building here.

Dr Mahathir said that discussions at the meeting centred on how to effectively combat these threats.

He said the component parties agreed they had to play a more effective role and that it should not be left to the Government alone to battle these trends.

"If there are any problems involving race or religion, we will try to solve them through discussions and not through public statements.

"We also decided to revive the idea of setting up multi-racial clubs to strengthen unity, which I had first suggested a few years ago.

"The idea did not take off then so we want another effort.

"We want Barisan component party members to get involved in the setting up of these clubs.

"We also want them to play a bigger role in the bodies involved with promoting the neighbourliness concept.

"All component party members have also been directed to take note of the sensitivities of each race so that there can be no misunderstandings," he said.

"Opposition parties are not committed to national unity. They are racial and care only about their own

race. They have no compunction in playing up racial issues," he said.

"We may fail but we cannot fail through default. We have to try," he said.

Dr Mahathir also announced that the meeting had decided on the coalition's new office-bearers.

He will continue as chairman with the presidents of each of the component parties continuing as vice-chairmen.

Encik Ghafar Baba was re-appointed to another term as Barisan secretary-general and as the general officer — "the man who will have to go to jail if we lose anything in the courts,"

quipped Dr Mahathir — while Finance Minister and Umno treasurer Encik Daim Zainuddin was appointed the new treasurer following the resignation of Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting recorded its thanks to Tengku Razaleigh for his past service as Barisan treasurer.