

PM: Barisan leaders are servants of their parties

No room for self-seekers

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PERMATANG PAUH, Tues. —
Barisan Nasional leaders are ser-
vants of their parties — and this
should not be forgotten.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said
this frame of mind was necessary if the
leaders were to be successful in their strug-
gles to achieve progress and development

for the nation.

"Let there not be any leader in the BN parties who gives importance only to his own position. Every leader in the BN should heed the voice of the people and accept the decision of the majority.

"A leader should even withdraw from his post when the time comes for him to go," said the Prime Minister when addressing a gathering of about 12,000 BN Youth and Wanita members organised by the Permatang Pauh Umno Youth at Gurus Perahu some 6.4km from here.

If a leader was rejected by the majority, then he should withdraw.

A leader's own personal feelings should not get in the way of his duty to the people who had elected him.

"I, too, will have to go when the signs are there. It is not a question of looking down or despising anyone. No one despised the Tunku. We still appreciate him and seek his advice."

Strength

In Malaysia success came easily after Merdeka, the Prime Minister said, but he regretted that some people had become proud and arrogant, thinking such success could last forever.

"Struggles for posts will bring no benefit to the people and country. If we can negotiate in a democratic manner, then the nation will be secure."

But despite problems among some component parties, the BN was growing in strength.

The Prime Minister also spoke of a political party which was making

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use of new Muslim converts to stir up discontent among the Chinese to make them hate the Government and Umno.

The authorities were keeping track of the actions of this group.

"I am confident the Chinese will not be misled by these converts to hate the Government and Umno, and I am confident the Chinese will reject them."

Issues

The Prime Minister reminded the people that their future depended on co-operation among the various races and that the New Economic Policy would be implemented fairly.

He hit out at those who brought up various issues, especially religion, to arouse the anger of the people.

In Malaysia today, he said, people of all races could gather without the fear that anything untoward may happen.

"We are not worried when our children go to school, away from us. In some countries, parents always fear their children may not come home. But here we have complete faith and we should be thankful," he said.

People who were waiting to welcome the Prime Minister were surprised to see him in the driver's seat of an Isuzu Trooper. Among his passengers were Agriculture Minister Anwar Ibrahim and Education Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.