

Mahathir warns against using vote to experiment

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BAGAN SERAI, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned those advocating a change of government with every general election that the people may lose their voting rights.

He said electing a government was not a matter to be toyed with.

An irresponsible government which came to power could easily change the constitution to prevent any general election being held.

This would mean that the people would never get the chance to vote again.

He said this had happened in other countries and there was a lesson to be learned from this.

Speaking at a dinner organised by the Umno division here to honour 30 Malayan Union veterans, the Prime Minister also spoke of the fallacy of those who wanted state

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governments and the Federal government to be ruled by different parties.

He said if this was done there was the real danger of the Federal government falling into the hands of irresponsible leaders who would be willing to promise anything in this world to come to power.

Dr Mahathir also said the leaders of a certain opposition party had collected a lot of money from the people but no one knew what was being done with it or where it was kept.

He did not name the party but it was an apparent reference to Pas.

Dr Mahathir said that if Umno members were not happy with his performance, they could always choose another leader.

But he said that in this opposition party, anyone trying to do this would be kicked out.

The Prime Minister also hit out at the dirty tactics used by the opposition.

He said they had gone to the extent of doctoring photographs to show Ministers and State Exco members in the company of women.

He said this could be easily done as government leaders were always in the limelight.

Dr Mahathir said this was aimed at making Umno members lose confidence in their leaders so that they would be easy prey for the opposition.

He urged Umno members to fight such tactics and remain united to ensure the continued prosperity of the country.

The Prime Minister said the present leaders of a certain party were proud and did not hesitate to criticise their founder members.

But he said Umno was not like this and respected the elders in the party who had contributed much to the country.