

# Dr M offers tip to new crop of political leaders

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Mon. — Young politicians and leaders must acquire or be given a historical perspective of their predecessors' struggle if they were to serve the people and country effectively, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there was a tendency among some young people to join political parties, including the Barisan Nasional, because they wished to become candidates in elections and not because they wanted to contribute towards nation-building.

If young leaders in the BN persisted with this line of thought, they would just concentrate on efforts to gain selection as election candidates rather than wanting to make the BN effective and successful, Dr Mahathir told a Press conference after chairing a two-hour closed-door meeting with State BN leaders here.

Also present were MCA president

Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yalk, Menteri Besar and Umno vice-president Tan Sri Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and other State BN leaders.

Dr Mahathir said young leaders in the BN now had a deeper understanding of their political objectives, having been given the historical perspectives and concept of the ruling coalition.

State meetings chaired by him and attended by young and new leaders have enabled Dr Mahathir to highlight the significance of a clear understanding of the BN's past record.

He said it was important for the present leaders to know in detail the origins of the Alliance, why it was formed and how the three parties grew to become the BN.

Many leaders only became active in politics after the Alliance was formed and therefore lacked the inputs provided by the coalition's early struggle.

He said only by understanding the

BN concept could the young leaders be helpful in making the BN effective.

He said only the BN could govern the country effectively and maintain stability.

Asked whether he had decided on the number of old candidates to be dropped from the coming general election, Dr Mahathir said this has not yet been decided.

He reminded BN supporters and party workers that general elections were held to enable the winning party to form the Government, and not to satisfy the political ambitions of individuals.

He dismissed speculation by opposition parties which claimed to know when the election would be held, saying that they had been speculating on the election for several years already.

Asked whether the BN's recent by-election successes in Kijal, Terengganu, and Linggi, Malacca, would prompt him to fix the date for the general election, Dr Mahathir said the victories would serve as useful inputs towards fixing the date.