

Dr M: Communal sentiments a

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Erase racial

hindrance to stability
feelings

By Farush Khan

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was important that all the people, including the Chinese community, give the Barisan Nasional their strong support to ensure lasting stability, progress and continued development.

The Prime Minister said the BN concept of national administration has been tested successfully.

It has proven its capability to unite the multi-racial community and to manage the country's economy efficiently and with wisdom, he added.

Opening the 40th MCA annual general assembly at Wisma MCA here Dr Mahathir said there was no other alternative to BN and that the pact among BN component parties was definite and lasting.

"It is not like the pact among the opposition parties which only exists during elections. After that every party will go its separate ways," he said.

He said the failures of such artificial pacts among opposition parties were caused by insincere leaders who placed personal interest above that of the people and country.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, said the effectiveness of the BN administration could be seen from the enthusiasm shown by many developing countries and international organisations to learn how BN runs the country which has multi-racial and multi-religious people.

He also reiterated the need for every Malaysian to help maintain political stability by avoiding actions which could impede this stability.

All races must always play their role to strengthen unity and understanding. They must erase any strong, negative racial feeling.

"Though we cannot completely erase racial identity and replace it with one national feeling, we should not fan the racial sentiment un-

til it creates tension in the country's political and social atmosphere," he said.

The Prime Minister added that there might be some "minor ripples" in the BN like what happened recently when Usno conspired with the opposition. But such actions did not affect the BN position.

In fact, it has strengthened the BN because the BN could not afford to have in its fold leaders whose personal interest superseded that of the party, people and country, he said.

He said BA observed co-operation and tolerance and upheld the principle that the interest of the country and party was more important than the interest of individuals or groups.

"This principle will continue to be upheld by the BN because if the BN were to bow to any individual or group, it will face destruction."

The Prime Minister said he was happy to note that the objective of the Government to make Malaysia a developed country had received strong support from all the BN components.

MCA, he said, had also played its role to explain to the people, especially the Chinese community, the concept of Vision 2020.

He, however, regretted that after more than two and a half years since the Vision 2020 concept was announced, there were still quarters who were not confident that Malaysia could become a developed country by that year.

These sceptics, he said, included those who always opposed every effort made by the Government "for the sake of opposing".

Though the Government's projects proved successful and beneficial to the people and acknowledged by the world, these dissenters would continue to criticise and refuse to accept the reality.

Dr Mahathir said some outsiders were uneasy with Malaysia's achievements and it was for this reason they tried to instigate the

people, especially workers and unions, to sabotage the Government's efforts.

He reminded Malaysians to have more confidence in the country's ability as confidence was needed to bring about success.

"Malaysia's confidence is not based on arrogance. It is based on the realisation that Vision 2020 is a realistic objective, after taking into consideration the people's capability and the country's economic performance so

far," he said.

An in-depth study, he said, had been conducted before the Government decided to list its objective of becoming a developed country.

The Prime Minister said Malaysians had also proven that they had high discipline and commitment and were not easily instigated by the country's enemy.

"With this, the possibility of this country becoming a developed country is not a dream, but a reality."