

PM: Discipline among BN parties the key to success

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Barisan Nasional Government is fortunate because members of its component parties are disciplined, which is the key requirement for the country to be administered efficiently and effectively, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said without the strong sense of discipline among Barisan Nasional members, the country would not have been able to achieve success in its programmes over the years.

The Prime Minister said with discipline among its members, the ruling coalition could administer the country without fear in making decisions that will benefit the country and the people.

"With discipline, party members will support all decisions and will be loyal to the party that administers the country.

"In war, a small army can defeat a big one if its soldiers are disciplined.

"For example, if the members of the big force are undisciplined and do not take orders, then the small army which is disciplined will win," he told Barisan Nasional members of parliament at a dinner organised by the Backbenchers Club at Angkasapuri.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali were special guests.

Also present were Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers and leaders of the component Barisan Nasional parties.

Dr Mahathir said when Barisan Nasional component party members were disciplined and followed instructions there was bound to be talk that they are robots.

"I think it is better to have

robots that are useful than human beings who are otherwise," he said in a lighter vein.

He said without discipline many other governments found it difficult to rule efficiently and cited the United States as an example.

He said in the US a president of a ruling party is unsure of support from his own party's elected representatives.

The president of the Democratic party is sometimes unsure of support from Democrats while he may receive the support from Republicans and vice versa.

He said it was therefore important to have clubs like the BBC which support the Government and added that without the BBC there will not be a Government and if there were more BBC members the Government would be much stronger.

At the start of his speech, Dr Mahathir said he feared

making speeches because politicians and the public tended to misinterpret what he said.

"When I mentioned the case of Brutus in my address at the Umno general assembly recently, there were different kinds of interpretations.

"And when I explained what I actually meant, some still doubted my explanation," he said.

He called on Barisan Nasional MPs not to misinterpret whatever he said.

"The people who like to interpret statements to suit their needs should be court interpreters and not politicians," he said.

The Prime Minister earlier received a souvenir from the president of BBC Shahidan Kassim.

After dinner he and his wife joined the guests to witness performances by various cultural and entertainment groups.