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Be professional, civil servants reminded

KANGAR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said civil servants should be professional in discharging their duties and support all government policies and programmes.

Stressing the importance of them sticking to administrative duties, he said, any sabotage of government programmes would affect the people.

"If they divert from this, there will be chaos in the country because there will be officers attempting to sabotage policies and programmes because of their political beliefs or their loyalty to certain people.

"When government programmes fail, it is the rakyat who will suffer," he said in his address at a luncheon for community and political leaders and government servants at the Menteri Besar's official residence.

Dr Mahathir said there was no reason for government servants to act that way merely because of their loyalty to a certain leader or because they thought injustice had been done by some people to remove the leader.

He said they should realise that their loyalty was with the Government elected by the people and not certain leaders in the Government.

As such, he said, they must continue to strive to implement all government policies and programmes and let politicians handle political problems.

He added if they did not like the leaders of the ruling Government, they could during the general election, opt to choose other people.

"If there is a smear campaign against the Government in office, it will create doubts between leaders in the Government and civil servants and this will affect the administration."

Dr Mahathir, however, said not many government servants had deviated and almost all administrators held closely to the principle of professionalism in discharging their duties.

He said they were agreeable and loyal to the present Government.

This way, he said, the people could rest assured that should there be a change in Government, whoever formed the Government would draw up policies and outline development programmes in the belief that all these would be implemented by professional government officers and staff.

Dr Mahathir said there was no necessity for a former government leader to enjoy continuous support of government servants although he might have during his tenure approved certain facilities and provided assistance.

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