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Malaysians now politically savvy

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LAST Monday at Putrajaya, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was reported to have said that "he is not perfect" (NST, Nov 23). If I may be so bold - so what? We would be very uncomfortable with a "perfect" or an infallible leader.

We don't judge our leaders - or anybody for that matter - solely by their imperfections. We judge them by the degree of excellence that they have achieved in spite of their imperfections.

On this account, Dr Mahathir wins hands down. Over the years, our Prime Minister and his Government have created a precious legacy for Malaysia - a nation that is free, united and successful.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim came close to selling off our country to foreign powers. His willingness to allow the IMF undue influence over our economy during the financial crisis was not for the country's good, but for his own.

By taking instructions directly from the IMF (and the powers behind it), the former Deputy Prime Minister would have been able to undermine all those who stood in his way to the top.

Anwar knew full well that his action would have meant also the loss of freedom over our economic destiny.

It is with some horror that we realise how close we were to being subjected to the first phase of recolonisation.

Then there is Lim Kit Siang who is still trapped by the "Malaysian Malaysia" ideology.

The perpetration of this ideology can only mean that the DAP leader has not given up insinuating that Dr Mahathir is some kind of Malay chauvinist.

Well, for Lim's information, there are many Malaysians of Chinese and Indian origin who are ardent fans of Dr M. It is not true that our PM is a chauvinist of any kind.

And then we have the leaders of Pas and their twisted concept of religious purity.

There was a time when even their fellow Muslims who just happened to be Umno members, did not qualify to eat at the same table with them, or marry their sons or daughters, or worship Allah in the same mosque, or even be buried at the same cemetery. Why? All because they were deemed to be "unclean" by some Tok Gurus.

Today, for the sake of winning an election, Pas members are eating at the same table and rubbing shoulders with people who by their own strict standards they would normally consider "impure".

Malaysians are now pretty savvy about politics. And when it comes to choosing their leaders, they prefer ones with human imperfections.