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Opposition should forget differences and help nation

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AS I was browsing through the membership list of the recently launched Second National Economic Consultative Council by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, I failed to see the names of Opposition parties such as Pas, Keadilan, DAP and PRM.

This is not surprising as these parties had decided at a meeting on July 1 to reject the Government's invitation to join the NECC II on the lame pretext that it is only a political gimmick on the part of the Government.

One tends to expect that these parties which have criticised the Government so much in the past to at least be courteous enough to accept the honour in good faith for the sake of the country.

Even PBS which once stabbed the BN in the back on the eve of the 1990 general election, was "willing to give it a try".

That should be the spirit of all Malaysians representing divergent political views. When it comes to national interest they should put aside whatever differences between themselves and come to the fore to help the country.

The NECC II was set up with the purpose of charting and formulating Malaysia's national development policies for the first decade of the new millennium.

NECC II provides the best forum and platform for all interest groups to be represented and in the process participate in this very important nation-building decision making.

Alas, due to their myopic and inward-looking mentality, selfish political interest takes precedent over national agenda.

One can only infer the following from their decision not to include themselves in the council.

One could be their own sense of insecurity of being unable to contribute constructive ideas intellectually.

This could be attributed to their fondness of cursing and bad mouthing the country's leaders and all efforts by the Government to bring development and prosperity to the people.

Their minds have been clogged by negative ideas and naturally such an important platform as the NECC II that could only warrant total seriousness from its members, would be too burdensome for them.

Secondly, Pas, Keadilan, PRM and DAP are anti-development. This could be a plausible reason from the statements made by their various leaders ranging from taking out Perlis from the Federation, discriminating beautiful women to the desire to auction Putrajaya and the Prime Minister's official residence.

These parties oppose for the sake of opposing. Never once have they tried to put aside their fanatical mask and ponder for a while about the future of this country and the generations to come.

All they care about is to achieve their ambition to rule the country even at the expense of the welfare of the people.

Don't these leaders care about the future of their children? Refusing the Government's sincere gesture for them to sit together in the council with the rest of other leaders simply means sheer arrogance and despicable attitude.

Don't they realise that Pas, Keadilan, PRM and DAP members too have the right to this country and build a better future for themselves?

The hearts of other Malaysians sink when they see there still exist in

our society holier-than-thou, small-minded leaders like those of Pas, Keadilan, PRM and DAP who want to get their followers out of the mainstream of society by being backward, insecure and afraid of the future.