

MALAYS WARNED

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Others will lead if they
don't advance: Mat Taib

It demonstrates PM's -moderate nature, says Gerakan

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and create a bangsa Malaysia first, so that racial integration can be achieved," Koh said.

To achieve a bangsa Malaysia, nationalistic sentiments must override racial differences, he said after opening a small- and medium-scale industries seminar.

Gerakan vice-president Dr S. Vijayarajam welcomed Mahathir's statement and said it demonstrated his moderate nature and broad-minded attitude.

This, Vijayarajam said, must be admired and adopted by all Malaysians. It must be accepted that this political phi-

losophy will take time to evolve and be assimilated by all races without compulsion.

In KUANTAN, Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said Mahathir raised the idea to gauge the extent of solidarity among the various races in the country.

"The Prime Minister wants to create a new thinking among the Malays and non-Malays on what will happen in future, which no one can foresee now," Adnan said.

"For the moment, I don't think the time has come (for it to materialise). This may be a reality in the long term but it is not something impossible."

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: The Malays have been told to take "as a warning" the statement by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that a non-Malay could one day become Prime Minister.

It is a reminder to the Malays whether they are prepared to lead the country in the future or otherwise, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said.

"If the Malays are not prepared to become an advanced race, then there are others who will lead us," he said after a Maulidur-Rasul function here when asked to comment on the Prime Minister's statement.

"The reminder is good... so that Malay leadership at all levels will realise and strive to ensure that they are strong and relevant at all times and can discharge their responsibilities effectively," Muhammad said.

However, Umno Youth said it will not accept a non-Malay Prime Minister. The PM and Barisan Nasional head must come from Umno, its head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said.

However, Hishammuddin added, he believes the Prime Minister is looking far into the future and that

"it is the Prime Minister's dream that Malaysians will not be differentiated by their ethnic background".

Mahathir, who is also Umno president and chairman of the Barisan Nasional, said when opening the MCA general assembly here yesterday that non-Malays certainly had the opportunity to become Prime Minister if every community accepted it.

PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor, -on the other hand, dismissed Mahathir's statement, saying that it was made only to appease the Chinese at the MCA general assembly.

In PENANG, Chief Minister and state Gerakan leader Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said that many obstacles have to be cleared before the nation could accept a non-Malay Prime Minister.

"That day is still far away We have to overcome existing racial differences

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