

# No place for extreme racial sentiments: PM

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People stand to lose everything if each community makes unreasonable demands, says Mahathir

All Malaysians stand to lose everything if each community makes unreasonable demands, confronts each other and resorts to violence, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

There is no place for extreme racial sentiments in Malaysian politics and Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties representing the various communities.

They must keep in mind the interests and sensitivities of others when upholding the rights and interest of their community

"With this in mind, we should not be asking for the absurd and the extreme for our own people," he said.

In Malaysia, none of the races will get everything it asks for. Each will have to sacrifice a bit of its rights and face disappointment, Mahathir said.

"No one will get all that he thinks is his right and no one will lose all that he has a right to.

"But unfortunately, it is entirely possible for all of us to lose everything.

"And that will happen when we become unreasonable in our demands, when we confront each other and when we finally resort to violence.

"When we do that, the whole country will go up in flames and there will be nothing left for us."

The prevailing inter-racial cooperation was brought about by BN politicians whose members dared to work together, he said in his opening address at the Gerakan's national delegates conference at Hotel Equatorial Penang.

Mahathir said each time there is a general election, component parties would receive threats to reject inter-racial cooperation and moderation if they want support.

"BN components have, without fear, upheld the principle of inter-racial cooperation at the risk of losing support in some states, but at the federal level, it continued to win sufficient seats to form a credible and effective government.

"We want to bring the rakyat closer together and not to assimilate anyone.

"We want Malaysians to learn to live together as one race so that all will develop loyalty and together, develop this beloved nation of ours," he said.

The government is working towards building greater racial harmony where people of all races and ethnic groups live in the same housing scheme and do business together, and schoolchildren interact.

"It is unhealthy for the different races to live in separate housing schemes, and even more unhealthy for one

race to stay in luxury homes while another lives in low-cost or squatter houses," he said.

Callina for new townships, he told housing developers to ensure that their projects will allow for all the races to live and do business together.

At the school level, he said the intention is never to do away with national type schools which are special and peculiar to Malay.

"We have no intention to assimilate the other races into the mainstream but, at least, we should integrate them via joint schools which is a moderate approach, as these schools will remain separate but hold joint assembly and sports.

"If national and national type schools are separate and the students do not mix with others of another race, the existing racial harmony cannot be sustained for long," he said.

Segregation also existed in universities here and even in overseas where attempts to place students of different races in the same hostel was met with resistance on the grounds that it is a disturbance to some.

"Malaysians studying overseas not only keep away from other Malaysians of different races but also choose to stay only with students from their own state back home," he said.