

Chandra wants to rule with iron fist, says Mahathir

BANGI, Thurs: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is not surprised that Parti Keadilan Nasional members are unhappy with their deputy president, Dr Chandra Muzaffar.

"From the beginning he wanted to impose his will on the whole nation. Now, he's doing the same thing in Keadilan. It's clear that he likes to rule with an iron fist," the Prime Minister said.

"He accuses other people of being dictatorial, but he is the dictator . . . he has shown his true colours."

Mahathir, who was speaking to reporters after officially opening Universiti Tenaga Nasional, also denied knowledge of any link between the resignation of Marina Yusof from Keadilan and the apparent resumption of construction work on her office-cum-hotel project called Marinara.

"What I know is that she could not get any funds even before and because of that she left Umno to join Tengku Razaleigh.

"Suddenly the building was going up, and that was because she was friendly with certain quarters. We (Umno) don't stop

approvals because of her allegiance," he added.

The Keadilan crisis has prompted many members to hop over to Umno, and Mahathir said their entry must be monitored carefully.

"We want to accept them, but what is their intention when they join? We had a bad experience before when we accepted one person only to find out much later that for him, Umno was only a ladder to climb to the top.

"So we have to be more careful now about the kind of people we accept into the party."

On Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat's suggestion for restaurants to be segregated according to religion, Mahathir said:

"Yes, there will separate restaurants for Muslims and non-Muslims, separate restaurants for women and men . . . everything will be separated.

"I think people who are wearing white caps must be separated from those who wear black caps.

"You know, this is not bringing people together, we are trying our best to divide people into small segments."

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