

BN's main task is -balancing communal rights: Tok Mat

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed: The Barisan Nasional's (BN) main task from now will be to balance communal rights that have been affected by recent global developments.

BN secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said the direction of the party as well as the government, will be to address the imbalances between the races.

"We will have to handle communal rights in all spheres. This is an important and serious job for us," he told a press conference on the BN Convention,

which will be held on Saturday.

Mohamed cited the 1997 financial crisis, globalisation and the advent of information technology as recent developments that have presented new sets of problems to BN and the government in managing a multi-racial society.

"At the turn of the century, ethnic problems became the problems of the world. We have been able to manage the imbalances before, but what we have achieved is now being reduced."

He said a book and compact disc on *Balancing Communal*

Rights will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the convention at the PWTC.

Asked if the convention was necessary because of the threat from the Opposition, he said BN did not care about them.

"We are not afraid of them. They have been trying to unseat us but they will never be successful," Mohamed said.

The last time the party held its convention was in 1995, despite a provision in the BN constitution providing for an annual convention.