

Safeguard future

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Cracks in govt machinery
can threaten country's
progress, warns PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned that there are signs of cracks in the government machinery that could result in serious consequences for the country's future.

"We have been independent for only 43 years, and already, there is over-confidence among some that the country can continue to progress, whoever forms the government.

"This is because they believe they should have their rights and that there will be no problem if there is a change in government," he said at the opening of the Second Civil Service Prime Council attended by 600 top civil servants.

Mahathir said this kind of thinking is spreading among government servants and if it continues, the country will not progress as civil servants will not be disciplined and professional and there will be disunity among the people.

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"The first evidence of crack and collapse is beginning to show. Destruction can happen very fast. While we took 43 years to come up it may take only two to three years to collapse ... and to come up again may take a long time and may even be impossible," he said.

Mahathir said the government has succeeded in bringing development as "there has been no racial tension and we have a moderate political system" backed by administrators who have been professional, capable and dedicated in implementing policies and programmes.

"I am impressed with our administrators because they have been generally professional and are not swayed by personal feelings," he said.

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caused Tho psychiatric problems.

Therefore, he said, the doctor's brothers could not prove that the deceased was of "sound mind, memory and understanding" when he executed the will.

Nathan also said Chua's testimony was the true version of the events.

He said there was clear

evidence that as the date of the execution of the will drew nearer, Tho was having loss of hearing, slurring of speech and double vision.

He also said that one of the defence witnesses had testified that due to the drug Tho was on, he would have been in a state of happiness not founded on reality, which can impair the mental faculty or rationality of a person.

Nathan said he rejected

the testimony of another witness who testified that Tho was happy after executing the will and was "happily walking down the steps to join in snacks after that".

This, Nathan said, was in contrast to the evidence which showed that on the day of the execution of the will, Tho had written a letter to one of the prosecution witnesses, crying for help.

The plaintiffs, he added,

did not impress him as "having done what they did for the welfare and interest of the deceased".

Nathan said there was clear evidence to show that when Tho was staying with his brother, Yow Suen, at the time the will was made, his wife was not allowed near him. Further, his wife and daughter were chased out of a hospital ward where Tho was previously warded, he added.