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Different views confusing the people, says Dr Mahathir

THE people, particularly the Malays, seem to be confused over the political situation in the country as a result of listening to different views, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"Previously, it was easy to understand the country's politics as it was aimed at ensuring an appropriate position for the Malays.

"Now, there are some who feel that the position (of the Malays) is not important as there are other more pressing needs," he said at the launching of Umno's Civil Action Bureau website in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Present was Puteri Umno head Azalina Othman Said. The website address is www.bts.org.my.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said too much focus on politics will be meaningless if it is not understood by the people, especially the Malays.

Dr Mahathir also spoke about the need for the Malays to close ranks so that they could work together to help the poor.

He said the importance of charity work should not be disputed and should be embarked on by all, irrespective of races and religions. In this regard, the Civil Action Bureau was set up so that Umno members can contribute actively in welfare activities.

"As Muslims, we are required to play a significant role in welfare activities. Unfortunately, we find that many of us are more inclined towards other activities and are not very interested in doing charity work," he said.

Following the setting up of the bureau, Dr Mahathir said, Umno believes welfare work can be carried out more systematically and will truly benefit those who are really in need.

He expressed confidence that the bureau can play a positive role to achieve this.

"We in Umno need to help the unfortunate members of society to reduce their burden and through the setting up of the bureau, I believe attention can be given to those in need of assistance and sympathy.

"Sympathy should not take into account race or religion of those in need of attention," he added.

He hopes that the bureau will be expanded throughout the country so that welfare work can be extended to cover more poor people.

Azalina said the bureau has conducted several activities since its launch in October last year.

She said the main objective of the bureau is to help those who did not have the means to solve their problems and to carry out other social work.

The bureau has set up a service centre to help the people deal with government agencies, statutory bodies and the private sector.

No fee is charged for services rendered.

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