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Good advisers are hard to come by

Seri Menanti

Dear Sir,

IT IS refreshing to know that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is now employing two non-Malays as his political and press secretaries, adding more to his already existing political aides.

This, to my view, is a very serious attempt to find out more about how other races in the country think.

Somehow, I was not the least surprised that he made such a decision. It just shows, once again, his leadership extraordinaire's quality. This is the case of grabbing the bull by the horns and conquering the racial fear, and the hell with small and parochial thinking.

Some of his detractors may say that "this man is making another political gimmick" or others may say "this is just an attempt to further woo the Chinese voters". Well, the facts are he is also the Prime Minister to all, Chinese included. The pampered Malays with their warp sense of nationalism can, again, just gripe at anything that has been decided by the very people given the mandate to manage the country. Dr Mahathir should now seriously consider taking in capable Indians to help him in office. In fact this should have been done a long time ago.

You know that leaders are as good and capable as the people who surround them. Remember Richard Nixon, and his palace guards. Well, Nixon was a victim of his own palace guards. All throughout his administration, with a couple of good decisions, he was ill-advised into allowing himself to make bad decisions. The Watergate scandal was the mother of all faux pas committed by Nixon that cost him his presidency. All of the responsible culprits were rounded up and Nixon was impeached and forced to resign dishonourably.

Mobutu Sese Seko, of the former Zaire, on his final hour, was told that everything was fine and dandy in his country by his advisers, who were already stashing diamonds and US dollars in European banks ready to scoot. Well, we know what happened to him.

"Baby Doc" Duvalier of Haiti, was also told by the head of his dreaded secret police, the Ton-Ton Macoute, that Haiti was under control. He lost. So you see, advisers need to be scrutinised by all leaders, for they can be the cause of their downfall.

As a private citizen who loves to see his country flourish, I am of the opinion that leaders in this country are also prisoners of their so-called advisers. These advisers have always had their own personal interest at heart first, then the interest of their bosses only second.

Sometimes bad advisers can lead to too many major problems that usually takes many years to correct.

Advisers sometime only tell their bosses what they want to hear. Bosses are usually a good being and but are often susceptible to "good" and "convincing" yarns.

Well, I think good leaders from now on should start exercising their own Grey matter and to make an effort to identify good people from carpet bagger. By doing this, their chances of surviving politically are much more.

Dr Mahathir exercised his Grey matter and came out with ideas that have and can improve the chances of this country to survive politically, economically and socially. It will be interesting to find out how much more of his Grey matter will work for the benefit of the country, Umno,

Malay unity and Malaysian prosperity.

As a political observer, as we all are, Dr Mahathir is indeed an old horse that we can bet on, for I am sure he can always find his way back to ensure stability and prosperity for the country and the people.

It is wrong for the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), in its recent analysis of countries in the world, to lump Malaysia with Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand by saying that political instability, corruption, lack of leadership and ethnic strife make this region as troubled areas.

To begin with Malaysia has got a strong leadership, no ethnic strife, and corruption. Maybe corruption, but that can be sorted out in due time if there is a political will to do so for the sake of the country. To say that this country condones corrupt practices is totally off. A democratic practice of this country has allowed a politician to call upon the higher authority to investigate alleged corrupt practice by another senior politician (note: in reference to Fauzi and Khalil)

Other than that, ask anybody, he or she will say this is still a country in the region where the semblance of a failed society is no where near to be seen. To say Malaysia has failed is like saying there is water on planet Mars.

Again, as a private citizen, any decision to be made from now till June or July, or the future, to cleanse the government machinery of any "dead wood", or to get rid of any destructive element in the country for the sake of peace and security, the Prime Minister can have my total support. I will wish him all the best, for he needs it to save the country, if any, from any danger or threat. This column is written without malice.