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## High marks for civil servants

Sulok Tawie; Letitia Samuel

KUCHING, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the professional attitude of the civil servants including the military and police has contributed remarkably towards the present development of the country.

The Prime Minister also praised the civil servants for discharging their duties diligently and efficiently in implementing Government's decisions and policies and for not being involved in partisan politics.

"The Barisan Nasional is able to form a capable and strong Government because of their professionalism, especially in adhering to the directives and decisions of the elected Government," Dr Mahathir said in a dialogue session with State and Federal officers here.

"The administrators know their responsibilities because their task is to implement the decisions and policies of the elected Government.

"For example, if we want things to be developed, it will be developed by the administrators. If we give allocations for certain projects, the administrators will use the allocations in accordance with the laws and decisions that had been made.

"Because of this, we see that Malaysia can be developed at a fast rate," he said, adding that if there was any weakness in the Government, it would be rectified without putting the blame on the administrators.

Dr Mahathir said if the administrators were no longer professionals like in some countries where they had their own opinions and were involved in partisan party politics, then the directives and decisions of the Government would not be carried out successfully.

"If this happens, then the country will be in chaos as there would be conflict of opinions between the Government and the administrators," he said.

Dr Mahathir added there were efforts (by certain quarters) to influence government officers not to be loyal to the elected Government.

"Unfortunately, such influence has effects (on some government officers).

"We know there are people in the administration who do not support the Government and this will weaken our administrative system."

"Every decision made is considered good by the Government, but if the administrators say otherwise, then there will be conflict and the decision of the Government will not be carried out."

Dr Mahathir said it might be the aim of these "minority" government officers to bring down the Government and replace it with another Government because of their belief that the new Government would administer the country better.

"But even if we have a new Government, the administrators who supported the previous Government will also try to sabotage the new Government," he added.

Dr Mahathir said only a weak and incapable Government should be removed by the people.

The Prime Minister said he is happy that there are Malaysians who still have a clearer mind and are not influenced by such approach.

He said he was beginning to see signs among the younger generation who felt discontented with the Government which had ruled the country since it gained independence in 1957.

"Because there is no change (in the Government), they wish for a change ... change for the sake of change. But must we have change?"

( END )