

24/06/2001

Malays will lose dominance if they withdraw their support

FORMER Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Mohamed Rahmat said the proceedings of this year's general assembly should remind the Malays that they will lose political dominance if they withdraw support for Umno.

He said the motions passed and content of the debates stressed the need for Malays to balance their priority between satisfying spiritual needs and pursuing material gains.

"For example, the stress on educational excellence among Malay students should highlight the fact that we are still too occupied with things which are not actually worth the lopsided priority given to it. Of course, religion is important, but what is the point if as a result, we neglect the need to pursue worldly gains which would give us strength to build a strong Muslim community."

Mohamed also pointed out that Umno members as well as the public should reflect on the party president's closing speech, especially on the need for them to maintain the racial harmony.

"For me, the most important part of Dr Mahathir's speech was the reminder that this country could ill-afford to have a divided society.

"This country was built on our success in maintaining racial harmony and there is no way for us to save it if we fail to continue doing so."

Mohamed said he was happy that Dr Mahathir had come out to state that he had nothing to do with MCA's take-over of the Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press as it would avert a potentially problematic racial issue.

"With his frank explanation, there should no longer be a question of the Malays trying to interfere in the purchase of the Chinese newspapers," he said.

(END)