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PM: Nik Aziz must learn to admit his mistakes

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Pas spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat should be prepared to admit to his mistakes as no human being is perfect.

"I admit I am not perfect, and to Nik Aziz, I am so imperfect that he has called on me to resign because I have openly admitted my failure in changing the mindset of the Malays.

"But to Nik Aziz, although he has committed a big sin by saying that God is a gangster, he does not want to repent," he said when addressing Puteri Umno members at the Putra World Trade Centre.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, made the remarks when advising the party's newest wing on the election of leaders and their qualities.

He stressed the need to elect leaders who work for the people and not for themselves, adding no leader could claim to be perfect and free of mistake.

On changing the mindset of the Malays, Dr Mahathir said he hoped other leaders after him would be more successful.

Later at a Press conference, Dr Mahathir said the Federal Government was not obliged to treat Pas nicely as the party, when given the mandate to form the government in Kelantan and Terengganu, ruled in a cruel way.

"They took over everything ... so what's the need to deal with them? In fact, there is no such need at all."

Asked to comment on Umno Penang's contention that Malays in the State would suffer the same fate as Malays in Singapore if the community continued to be left out of development on the island, Dr Mahathir said the scenario could become a reality if the Malays were divided.

"If we are not united, do not work hard, like to question this or that and are taken in by Pas propaganda, there is a possibility it will happen not only in Penang but the whole of Malaysia."

To a contention that economic opportunities were not given to Penang Malays, the Prime Minister dismissed it, saying that when contracts were awarded by the State Government, they were sold to others.

Dr Mahathir advised the Malays from taking the easy way out by blaming others for their misfortune.

"Everybody is at fault. We cannot think that the others are so evil. We have to ask ourselves whether we have carried out efficiently the responsibility entrusted upon us."