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Parties must unite to check extremism

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to opposition parties to join the Barisan Nasional is not only a wise move but also a timely one.

In his discourse on power distribution, Greek philosopher Aristotle said in the fourth century BC that there are three types:

- \* power held by one man - monarchy;
- \* power held by a few - aristocracy; and,
- \* power held by the people - democracy.

Power-sharing is practised by many democracies. It has served us well for more than four decades and has enabled the country to make tremendous progress on all fronts.

After all, politics, as defined by diplomat-turned-politician Michael Stewart in his book *The British Approach to Politics*, "is the task or art of living and helping others to live in an organised community for the sake of the economic advantages and the enrichment of human personality which such a life offers".

Terrorism is gaining momentum and poses a grave danger to lives and properties.

Malaysia must join forces with the international community to combat the evil. This can be done more effectively if political parties are united by taking a common stand.

So political parties must sink their differences and unite to serve the people better.

This is exactly what the Conservative Party did in Britain in 1939.

When faced with the German threat, it formed a national coalition with Labour and the Liberals and confronted the Nazi threat boldly and brought victory to democracy.

The opposition parties, particularly Parti Keadilan Nasional and Partai Rakyat Malaysia, should consider the invitation seriously in the interests of the nation and people.

Such a coalition will also help to check political parties which resort