

26/07/2002

PM warns of trouble-makers

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. - Malaysians might be forced to endure instability and mayhem if politics was used as a tool to disintegrate the nation's multi-racial character, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there were groups within the country which were uneasy with the close co-operation and understanding among the various races.

"They want to see the kind of mayhem that occurs in other multi-racial countries happening in Malaysia. Their concern is only for their own, narrow-minded community.

"Even in the universities, these people are against the idea of mixing freely with students of other races," Dr Mahathir said. Speaking at the closing of the Johor Barisan Nasional convention here, he said that if such beliefs were allowed to take root, Malaysians will lose all that had been achieved over the years.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, told the 10,000-odd audience at the Johor Baru City Council stadium that such negative trends were evident during the recent by-elections in Kedah.

He said that knowing that they had no hope and could not convince the people to vote for them, the opposition embarked on violence and tried to prevent the Indians and Chinese from voting to ensure their victory.

Repeatedly warning the BN supporters to prevent the growth of such immoral and cancerous activities, Dr Mahathir said that if the Government were to act against such groups, they would then seek foreign help to paint a bad picture of the administration.

"But we are not bothered about what outsiders or Human Rights watchdogs have to say ... this is our country and we are responsible for her well-being," he said, adding that he abided by the medical advice of "prevention is better than cure".

On Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Niz Abdul Aziz Nik Mat's suggestion for the creation of a one-party system in the country, Dr Mahathir said that the Pas leader wanted to become a dictator.

"I think he is not happy with democracy and wants to become a dictator...or maybe he himself is frustrated with Pas," he chided.

Later in the evening, Dr Mahathir officiated the new building of the Jemaah Malabar Muslim Johor in Senai.

Dr Mahathir urged the community to continue supporting the BN.