

Dr M: Use your head, not hate, when voting
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Former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad has again called on the public to vote BN, because the party had proven itself and are unlike authoritarian regimes in the Arab region.

In his latest blog posting today, Mahathir spent about 14 paragraphs describing how Malaysia had prospered under the BN regime before summarising that there was no need for this to change.

He said that Malaysia has developed beyond expectations and the people have a good life because of BN, but yet the party is demonised by a “hate campaign”.

Moreover, Malaysia has democratic elections where it was possible for BN to suffer substantial losses, unlike some Arab countries where the ruling party wins 90 percent of the votes.

“Admittedly the same party has won all the 12 elections. This is frustrating for the opposition parties.

“But as much as the people can reject the government party, the people also have a right to return the same party in any election.

“What is important is that support for the party is due to its success in developing the nation and meeting the needs of the people,” said Mahathir, who is widely credited for modernising Malaysia’s economy during his 22 years as premier.

Change, sometimes, brings disaster

Mahathir explicitly states that change is “not always for the good” and there have been instances where change had brought disaster to a country. He did not elaborate on this.

While admitting that it was necessary to criticise the government to keep them “on the straight path”, Mahathir makes no mention of the opposition in this role

“I hope the people will not be swayed by the campaign of hate but should make a proper assessment of the qualities of the people and parties which will contest.

“Think of the development and progress of this country and choose wisely,” he said.

Several days before the 2008 election, Mahathir told Malaysiakini during in an exclusive interview that he believes in the need for an opposition, stressing that Malaysia is in for an disaster if it doesn’t have a viable opposition.

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