

Dr M on Malay political power and the economy
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PETALING JAYA – "To Be Or Not To Be A Racist". That's the title of Dr Mahathir Mohamad's latest blog posting in which he said the Chinese cannot gain more political power in Malaysia until the Malays achieve a fair share of the economic stake.

The former prime minister, in his blog post at chedet.co.cc on Monday, wrote:

"In the political field, the Malays appear to be in control. Most of the high posts, ie. PM, MB, etc, are held by the Malays. If these posts are held by the Chinese, then not only will the economy be under Chinese control but the political arena would also be under the Chinese.

"What will the Malay stake be in the country?" he asked.

He said the BN government would not give higher positions to the Chinese as the Malays had not achieved adequate control of the nation's economy.

He said he "had to give the true reasons" after being startled by questions posed by an ex-MP at a recent gathering.

However, he admitted that the Malays were also at fault for not making correct use of the opportunities created for them under the New Economic Policy (NEP), which has been around for nearly 40 years.

"But whatever the reasons, the Malays have not gained for themselves the 30% target in corporate ownership even. But more than that, if a proper audit is made, their wealth is even less than 30% of total wealth of the people of Malaysia.

"Most of the wealth of the country belongs to the Chinese. It can also be said that the Chinese control the economy of the country," Dr Mahathir said.

He added that should the Malays gain their fair stake in the country's economy, they should be ready to relinquish a commensurate amount of control in the political field.

"And since they have not gained a fair share in the economy, they should be allowed to retain this greater share in politics," he added.

Dr Mahathir also expressed doubt that the poor showing of Barisan in 2008 was because the people were sick of racial parties and racial politics.

"If PAS is extremely supportive of the Chinese today, it is not because the party has become disaffected with race and religion. It is simply because it wants to play up Chinese racial sentiments in order to win Chinese votes.

"Remember at one time, PAS condemned Umno for having MCA as a partner. Now PAS is willing to accept DAP as a partner. It is political hypocrisy, not sincere partnership," he added.

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