

Don't Choose Leaders Based On Emotions, Says Dr M
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KUANTAN -- If the people choose leaders based on emotions without making careful evaluation first, they will likely get individuals incapable of providing good leadership.

Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said although the power to choose leaders lay with the people, a careful evaluation and wise decision must be made to elect leaders who would not disappoint them.

"If the people are not wise but are influenced by emotions, they will most probably choose incapable leaders who will make them suffer.

"If we don't get a good government, we should blame ourselves. Don't blame democracy as we are wrong for making a bad choice," he said in his public lecture on "Challenges of the Future Leadership" at Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP), here, yesterday.

Dr Mahatir said the people today were still often influenced by sentiments and their loyalty to the leaders of their choice, which would likely cause them to choose wrongly, especially during the general election.

"I hope the people understand that the general election is not for giving a platform for their favourite candidates but to those who are capable and efficient, and who are supported by many."

Dr Mahathir said the candidates also needed to think first whether they were really qualified to lead by setting aside personal interest and focusing on public interest instead.

"First, the candidates must have sufficient knowledge in various fields and be intelligent in tackling arising problems affecting society," he said.

Later at a news conference, Dr Mahathir expressed hope that the 2012 Budget would be a fair budget for all the communities.

(Bernama)