

Dr M: People need to continue supporting BN

KUALA LUMPUR: The people should continue supporting the Barisan Nasional (BN) government as it has proven itself capable of fulfilling the needs of the people, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said since after the country's independence, the BN government had struggled for the people's well-being regardless of race.

"Why should we change the government for another party? There are people who ask for the government to be changed, accusing the BN of being evil, thieves, robbers, corrupted and so on, but the other parties have not been tested like we (BN) have.

"There is an English saying which means that we should not repair something which is already in a good

state because a worse thing can happen.

"It's the same with support for BN ... its balanced policies for all races are seen as good.

"Hence, there is no need to change the current government to one whose ability to take care of the people's welfare is highly suspect," said

Mahathir at a talk event between the Ampang Umno division and the former premier at Dewan Datuk Setia Mufti Suib in Ampang, near here.

Later, when asked by reporters on the government's proposal to amend the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA) 1974, Mahathir said the Act was created in the interest of Malay undergraduates.

"At that time, there were many more Malay undergraduates actively

involved in politics than those from the other races.

Hence, the Act was implemented to ensure that they (Malay students) fully focus on their studies to succeed in education.

"There were not that many highly educated Malays at the time and if the Malay students were preoccupied with politics, when would they be able to study?

"I was also active in politics when I was young but left it for almost six years to concentrate on my (medical) studies," he said.

On Nov 24, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced in the Dewan Rakyat that the government would be amending the UUCA to allow undergraduates to be members of political parties. - Bernama