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# Dr M: Change not always better

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**BEWARE OF PROMISES:** Ex-PM says country has made great progress under BN

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**F**ORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged Malaysians not to vote for a change in government, as “change” did not always mean for the better.

“Beware of Greeks bearing gifts. Beware of politicians who make promises,” he said in his blog posting, in reference to Pakatan Rakyat leaders who promised change if they came to power.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were better off than most people in the world, and the country had made great progress in 56 years

under Barisan Nasional rule.

While acknowledging that the cost of living had risen, he cited many other countries which were in worse shape.

“Financially and economically, we are not too badly off. The cost of living has gone up a little, but people are not starving the way some Africans and Asians are. A generous government is ever ready to extend help.

“Business is good even though we think it can be better. Our exports are high and still growing. Unemployment rate is low. Eco-

nomie growth is still possible. At four to five per cent, it may not be as good as Indonesia and the Philippines, but it is better than Europe or America or the countries of West Asia and North Africa.”

Despite all these, Dr Mahathir said there were people who would exploit every little misfortune.

“They promise they can bring prosperity, give free education and all kinds of goodies. But observe the contradictions — they promise the oil producing states they would increase the royalty from five per cent to 20 per cent, which will

result in the Federal Government losing 15 per cent of revenue from oil... that’s a big sum.

“They want to do away with road tolls, increase fuel subsidies and reduce rates and taxes. Their proposals will reduce government revenue and increase expenditure. This is what the Greek government did, and the country went bankrupt.”

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should count themselves lucky for not being among those affected badly by economic crisis, natural disasters and wars.