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# 'Kongsi' govt still the best, says Dr M

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## MULTIRACIAL:

'Chinese must be represented in ruling coalition'

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**F**ORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the best answer for Malaysians is still a coalition, or *kongsi*, government.

He said if MCA did not take up any state or federal government position, then there would be no representation for the Chinese.

"The fact remains that some mem-

bers of the Chinese community do support the government, and they must be represented. All along, we have believed in cooperation between races and because we cannot form a multiracial party, we have devised a coalition of race-based parties. This coalition acts as a party and if the coalition breaks down, then what is the answer?" he said at a press conference here yesterday.

Asked if Pas should join Umno, Dr Mahathir said there would need to be a lot of compromise for that to happen.

"But one must remember that Umno and Pas are not enough to govern the country. The best would still be a *kongsi* government where the three races are to-

gether."

He also said Sabah and Sarawak had always played a big role when it came to the formation of the ruling government, and he hoped there would be more representation from the two states in the future.

Dr Mahathir also listed out distrust as one of the factors behind a drop in Barisan Nasional's performance. He said a deep mistrust had been instilled in the Chinese because of the sentiments raised by DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang. Citing Johor as an example, Dr Mahathir said the state

was a symbol of peaceful cooperation between the races until Lim came.

"Lim brought with him the con-



Former prime minister **Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad** says distrust was one factor behind a drop in **Barisan Nasional's** performance



cept of Malaysian Malaysia, and has incited hatred towards Malays. This led the Chinese to no longer accept the hand of friendship from Malays."

He said where Malays were concerned, some had forgotten the struggles the country had gone through and treated the election as a way to get a cushy job with perks.

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