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Dr M: Speak up against the radicals

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APPEAL: 'Moderates
must rebut their
claims'

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MORE moderate Malaysians should speak up against extremists in the country and rebut their claims instead of making them powerful.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there were many moderate Malaysians who often did not comment when extremists said something.

"In any society, moderates dare

not say anything against them because if you do, you become the object of their attacks and condemnation.

"If you allow that to happen, extremists will dominate society. The extremists will become more powerful and get away with their demands.

"Even I was labelled as an extremist because I used to rebut the claims made by extremists. Some even labelled me as racist. But when I was prime minister, I had support from Malays, Chinese and Indians," he said at a forum, "A Malaysian Dilemma", organised by the Centre for A Better Tomorrow, here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said extremists here viewed things from a racial perspective.