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NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	4/12/2018

6 | NEWS / Nation

MONTHLY ASSEMBLY

PM: USE POWER GIVEN TO DO YOUR JOB

*NST
- 4/12/2018
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If power is abused, country will not progress, Dr M tells civil servants

PUTRAJAYA

PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded members of the administration that political power was bestowed upon them to perform their duties, not for their self-benefit.

Dr Mahathir, who was speaking at a monthly assembly with the Prime Minister's Department staff here yesterday, said if power was abused, the country would not progress and society would be beset by moral decline.

"That's why we have to be careful when we (use) the power given to us. If we (feel) that the power may cause something (bad) to (happen to) our country, it is better that we not exercise it... It is better that we (have a discussion) and get advice on how the power is to be exercised," he said.

He said he wanted members of the administration to understand that the purpose of establishing a government was to ensure that Malaysia became more progressive.

He said although the benefits of exercising power judiciously will not be immediately seen, the results will eventually emerge and be enjoyed by the people, including members of the administration.

Dr Mahathir said peace and harmony in Malaysia should be maintained to facilitate the equal distribution of the country's wealth to reduce the wealth gap between urban and rural areas.

This, he added, would be achieved through good governance, without corruption and events intentionally held to stir chaos and racial animosity.

"When we have rioting problems and other (undesirable events), we have to handle them wisely, as a (concerned) government.

"It's not our intention to hamper urban growth and wealth, but if the gap between the rich and poor is too (wide), it will raise feelings of envy and hate.

"Because of that, there will be hostility between urban and rural areas, between the poor and the rich, even between one race and another," he added.

Dr Mahathir added that he was confident that the Prime Minister's Department staff members not only knew how to do their job, but were well aware of the country's needs. **Bernama**



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaking at the Prime Minister's Department monthly assembly in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC