

PM's answer to racial politics

Forget about origin and identify ourselves as Malaysians, says Dr M

PETALING JAYA: There will be no racial politics if people forget about their origin and identify themselves as Malaysians, says Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Racial politics has no role to play if we all forget our origin and believe we are all Malaysians," the Prime Minister said during an interview with the Breakfast Grille on Business Station (BFM89.9) yesterday morning.

However, he said at the moment, people still identified themselves from their country of origin.

"If you want to be elected, you must take into consideration the feelings of the people.

"I can be anti-Malay but it is not going to win me the election and I won't be able to do anything. Can you imagine what will happen in that case?" he said.

Dr Mahathir also confirmed that there would be no Cabinet reshuffle as his current ministers were all new to the job.

When asked if he would consider

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replacing Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik, he replied with a resounding "No".

"The present minister has got one year's experience. I think with a new minister, I will have a tough time getting him to adjust to the job. He probably won't deliver also," he said.

Dr Mahathir said when a new prime minister succeeds him, then perhaps there might be a new Cabinet.

However, he said whenever there was a Cabinet reshuffle, more pro-

blems would be created and it would not solve any problem.

"That is why I'm not very keen on solving my problems by changing people," he said.

During the interview, Dr Mahathir said he would honour his promise to only be an interim prime minister.

"I will keep my promise. But I have to make sure I solve most of the major problems before a hand-over.

"A fixed period is difficult for me to work," he said.

Meanwhile, when asked about the rumours of division between DAP and Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, Dr Mahathir noted that this was due to the Opposition's politics.

"We find that the Chinese complain that DAP is no longer representing the Chinese and people like Lim Kit Siang is a traitor to the Chinese.

"On the other hand, the Malays say DAP is controlling the government. (Everyone) is looking from

their own angles, but the fact is that we are working together.

"We have to accommodate each other. Sometimes, it may appear that DAP's view is prominent but other views are also being voiced," he said.

Dr Mahathir noted that not many multiracial countries were as stable as Malaysia, adding that the country consisted of three different races, three different religions, three different languages and three different cultures.

He also said the country was stable despite the economic disparity between the races.

"That is an achievement which means that the government has been able to manage.

"But in other countries, by now there would have been riots ... even civil wars," he said.

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