

Dr M is the source of nation's race issues, says MCA's veep

KUALA LUMPUR: MCA vice-president Datuk Ti Lian Ker has criticised former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and pointed to the former premier as the source of racial divide in the country.

He said this to counter Dr Mahathir's claim that race issues in the country are partly the fault of non-Malay political parties.

"Dr Mahathir was wrong to compare Malaysia with Thailand,

the Philippines and Indonesia, as these countries practice assimilation whereas in Malaysia, we walk along the lines of accommodation.

"We were successful until a *pendatang* (immigrant) from Kerala challenged the Federal Constitution, the Royal Institution and our political conventions."

Ti was referring to Dr Mahathir's roots, which can be traced back to Kerala.

He reminded Dr Mahathir that the existence of ethnic-based parties was because Umno refused to open up to non-Malays.

"It is not the ethnic-based parties that caused the divide, but it was their wisdom and leadership that kept this nation intact and gained respect as a successful model for a multicultural society."

Ti called out the veteran politician, saying it was Dr Mahathir's

way of ruling, racial rantings and writings that fuelled the nation's racial issues.

"It was Dr Mahathir's book *The Malay Dilemma*, his rule, and his racial rantings that have broken inter-racial bridges built and founded by Bapa Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman and the Alliance," he said.

Highlighting how the adage *hutang budi dibawa mati* (one should never forget kindness re-

ceived) is highly valued by Malay community, Ti asked if the former prime minister was not aware of the practice.

"If it were not for the leaders of these ethnic-based political parties and founding fathers, Dr Mahathir would still be colonised.

"He would not have become prime minister for 22 years and for a second time at the age of 92 for another 22 months," he added.