



Dr M: BN holds recipe to racial harmony

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"THE answer is simple... *masuklafi* BN," said Prime Minister Datuk Sen Dr Mahathir Mohamad with a smile as he responded to a query raised by DAP Kepong member Tan Seng Giaw yesterday.

Tan had asked how the country could continue to maintain peace and tolerance among its races, and Dr M's reply had the House tickled pink.

"We have parties which represent all the races, and we can sit together and discuss without emotions and come to an agreement."

"Tapl kalau tiruan, memanglah tidak begitu berjaya and kucditi kurang baik sikit (But if they are not genuine, of course they will not be that successful and of slightly inferior quality." he said.

Dr Mahathir said religion is not among the most important factors in a democracy.

"Instead, it has a lot of weaknesses and hence, if we were to practice it without taking into consideration our surroundings, negative effects will befall the rakyat and the country.

"Anarchy will also take place... The belief that if democracy is practiced and that all will be smooth is baseless, especially if democracy is forced to be executed."

He said democracy will bring about good administration if all parties understood the system and ideology and realise the weaknesses and limits.

Only then, citizens will be careful and avoid abusing the freedom that comes with democracy.

Dr Mahathir, in his mid-term review of the Eighth Malaysia Plan also urged Malaysians not to have a narrow mindset and accuse the Government of trying to destroy the culture and language of any race.

"I call upon every Malaysian to rise to the occasion to face the challenges as they emerge and shoulder the responsibilities of citizenship.

"If we do this, there is no reason why we cannot continue to be successful and make this country a model for the world to emulate Malaysia Boleh."