

Pakatan will contrive to rule forever, Dr M warns
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned Malaysians today that the country may never see a Barisan Nasional (BN) government again if Pakatan Rakyat (PR) is voted into Putrajaya, saying the federal opposition would do “everything possible” to stay in power forever.

The former prime minister, who was speaking to a crowd of government retirees in Lembah Pantai here, did not elaborate what he meant by his warning but urged voters to appreciate BN's “good governance” over the past 55 years.

The influential leader laid the credit for all of Malaysia’s success on BN’s doorstep, adding that it was “almost a miracle” that the country managed to soar economically and socially despite its diverse racial make-up.

“I know that some of us feel that, why not try something else. Then in five years, we can change again to BN.

“But no way... once they gain power, they will do everything possible, and we cannot change again to BN... by then, it will be too late,” Dr Mahathir said in his speech during a tea-time session with the Lembah Pantai Retirees Club here.

The country’s longest-serving prime minister then reminded the audience of his experience in government, and said he “knows a few things”.

He also repeated a recent point he has made on his blog and in public speeches that “change” may not necessarily be for the better.

“A lot of people ask, ‘should there not be a change (in government)?’ I feel — and I do have some experience... you remember, I was PM for 22 years — change is not always for the better.

“Change may be for worse things. You may even destroy this country if you allow yourself to elect a government that is only interested in becoming the prime minister... not in serving the people.

“They want to become PM... so they go around telling people that it is time for a change,” he said.

Dr Mahathir was likely referring to his former deputy in government, Opposition Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, whom he has often accused of being only focussed on securing the premiership.

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