

**A vote for change will block economic progress, says Dr M
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 — Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad warned Malaysians against voting for change today, arguing that it will result in a weak government that will hinder economic progress.

The former prime minister also expressed his hope for Barisan Nasional (BN) to regain a strong two-thirds parliamentary majority in the next elections so that the government can implement its policies without resistance.

“Change itself will be destructive, and turmoil is not good for any country,” Dr Mahathir **(picture)** said at the 15th Malaysia Strategic Outlook Conference here.

Dr Mahathir clarified later that this does not however mean that no government change should happen at all in Malaysia, but rather the change must be studied first.

“Are you just changing for the sake of changing, or changing because it is going to be for the better?” he asked.

He also claimed that the current government headed by Datuk Seri Najib Razak was considered weaker than previous ones.

A weak government will in turn have to resort to meeting demands and delivering handouts in order to satisfy all parties, he said.

“When you see a government that is weak, that has only a small majority, then all sorts of criticism and demands will be made against them,” he said.

“If there is a strong government, with a two-thirds majority, the government can expect full support from the parliament and from the people as well.”

The former prime minister also mocked Pakatan Rakyat (PR), insisting that the coalition was not a “real” one, and was only formed to win elections.

“Pakatan is just an agreement to work together for the purpose of winning the election ... it’s not truly a coalition, it’s just a coming together of three parties which work together during the elections.

“But after the elections it’ll be difficult for them to work together,” Dr Mahathir claimed.

He alleged that the people just want PR to win to show that Malaysia implements a fair two-party system, but insisted that there is no need to prove so.

“We never had a two-party system, and we can never have a two-party system,” he said, adding that the coalitions in place so far are still made of discrete component parties.

He also gave the examples of changes promised by Idi Amin in Uganda and Barack Obama in the United States which, he claimed, were not for the better.

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