

**Malays will shun violent uprising, says Dr M**  
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**By Emily Ding**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 15 — Violent street protests will not gain traction in Malaysia because they are not part of Malay culture, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said.

He pointed out that even though many Malays took part in Bersih demonstrations, the violence was minimal because they are not violent people.

Invoking Malaysian history, he pointed out that apart from the odd exception, there has been no sustained revolution or uprising against the sultans, or against foreigners, because of the Malay spirit of accommodation.

"In other countries, they would have burned down buildings. But apart from destroying one police car, I think they are very nice people," Mahathir (picture) told The New Straits Times in an interview today.

"It's a very loyal, 'Melayu takkan menderhaka', kind of thing," he said.

"That is why in Malaysia, there is no racial violence as such. Although one has to remember that the communist uprising and their attempt to overthrow the government was in a way a kind of racial confrontation."

When asked about his thoughts on the Najib administration, he said that caretaker prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak was "very hardworking".

"Once (Najib) has had to face an election, he has been very active. He spends a lot of time campaigning and doing all kinds of things to win support from the people," he said.

"There may be things that people don't agree with him on, but you cannot deny that he works very hard to win the election."

"Even I never worked that hard. But I must admit that the support (for BN) was very obvious (when I was PM). That's why I won five elections, each one with a two-thirds majority (in Parliament)," he added.

He also stands by Vision 2020, an ideal he introduced in 1991 when he was prime minister for Malaysia to reach developed-nation status by the year 2020.

"Vision 2020 was to identify a target. If you don't know where you are going, you may assume you are going forwards but you may in fact be going backwards," he said.

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