

Dr M's views on Chinese dilemma is pure politics, say analyst, DAP leaders
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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's assertion that the DAP has encouraged the Chinese to grab power rather than share it with other races is just pure politics ahead of the Umno general assembly and elections, an analyst and several DAP leaders said today.

Political analyst Ooi Kee Beng said that the former prime minister was trying to "paint a bogeyman" to cloud the real issues surrounding the Malaysian government.

"He doesn't give any specifics at all. It is all purely political rhetoric and has nothing to do with the real world," he pointed out.

"The article's style of argument is vintage Mahathir, arguing through insinuations and a blame game without giving details or facts on which a proper discussion can be based," the deputy director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore told The Malaysian Insider today

Dr Mahathir, in an opinion piece in Umno-controlled News Straits Times, said that the DAP had weakened Barisan Nasional senior member MCA until "the idea of sharing with the Malays political and economic power has become insupportable", adding that the party was trying to set up Singapore in Malaysia.

"The dilemma for the Chinese is whether to make a grab for political power while dominating economic power or to adhere to the principle of sharing which has made this country what it is today.

"That is the Chinese dilemma," he wrote.

Ooi stressed that the MCA losing its influence and power was definitely not the DAP's fault.

"The MCA losing power is not the DAP's fault, surely. If the MCA is undermined like that then it deserves to be undermined," he said.

Several DAP politicians have also hit out at the former prime minister for his "irresponsible" and "illogical" comments.

DAP assistant publicity chief Zairil Khir Johari said Dr Mahathir's comments showed Umno's desperation to gain support from the Malays.

"He is trying to fire racial sentiments and it is unfortunate as it is ruining his reputation as the former PM.

"At this point of his life, he should be a uniting figure in Malaysia but instead, it is the opposite," the Bukit Bendera MP told The Malaysian Insider.

He pointed out that Dr Mahathir's piece was baseless as the Malays were in control of almost everything in the country.

"The Malays are in control of the civil service, the police, judiciary, military and the biggest

chunk of our economy is driven by government-linked companies which are managed by Malays," Zairil said.

He noted that there were three main reasons why Malaysia will never be like Singapore.

"Firstly, we are a democratic country and Malays are the majority here. And the number is increasing everyday.

"Besides, we have the Federal Constitution which safeguards all Malay special rights and positions and also there are the Malay rulers who have to be consulted if the Constitution was going to be amended," he said.

Zairil also Dr Mahathir was way off in his opinion, adding that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) had more Malay candidates than Barisan Nasional.

"The Malay representation in Parliament has also increased to 58 percent from GE10 and GE11, when it was 55 percent," he added.

DAP national vice-chairman Chong Chieng Jen concurred, observing that this was "a normal occurrence" during Umno elections.

"They will always find a scapegoat in playing the racial card. The DAP and the Chinese are always the targets," he said, adding that the party has cooperated well with PAS and PKR, both of which are Malay-majority parties. - July 27, 2013.

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