

**Democracy succeeds when losers accept defeat gracefully, says Dr M
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Democracy in Muslim countries will never flourish unless losing parties are willing to accept defeat gracefully, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his latest blog posting.

Dr Mahathir said democracy was not a principle which was easy to adopt as there were many conditions to be met before it could succeed.

"The biggest condition is that the administrative institution must be prepared to accept the leadership of the winning party," he said.

He said while all parties in Arab states showed unity in overthrowing dictatorships, "the problems comes after the government has been overthrown"

"Various parties spring up to contest in the general election," he said, adding that the possibility of any party winning with a big majority was slim.

"The second issue is that the losing parties are unable or unwilling to accept defeat, although in any competition, there is bound to be a loser," he said.

Dr Mahathir said demonstrations would then be staged again to overthrow the winning party which has formed the government.

"In the end, because no party is able to form a government, the military is forced to step in and form the government," he said, in an apparent reference to Egypt, which saw its former military general returning to power after overthrowing its elected president Mohamed Morsi last year.

"So all the sacrifices and economic instability that the country went through to overthrow a dictatorship were in vain," he added.

Dr Mahathir said it was important for a developed and democratic country to show a willingness to accept a polls defeat with grace.

"The losers should accept and embrace their role as the opposition. They should wait for the next general election to contest again.

Following the 13th general election last year, Pakatan Rakyat refused to accept the results, claiming electoral fraud and irregularities, including issues with the indelible ink introduced by the Election Commission. – June 25, 2014.

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