

bother to vote for BN?" - that's what PAS will say and that has always been a problem with PAS even in my constituency. If a village is supportive of PAS and I were to give a bridge or whatever PAS will tell people "Look you don't have to support the Government so support us." Because of that we had to hold back.

Q : Do you think political Islam will play a big role in the next General Election?

Dr M : It will be exploited to the utmost by PAS and the Government will have its hands full trying to handle it.

Q : What about racial issues?

Dr M : It is unfortunate because we have never really achieved racial harmony but we have been able to keep it within control. But now people are not really taking action based on race but also on religion. They say Hinduism was not something that will cause a...(not audible)...but now Hindus apparently feel dissatisfied with their lot and have made this demonstration. I don't say that because I agree with them. I don't agree with them. But they see a Government that is retreating and of course they want to take advantage.

Q : Apa pendapat Tun tentang sekiranya anak beranak dapat jawatan utama dalam parti UMNO. Bolehkah orang

Melayu terima?

Dr M : Psychology...attitude Melayu berbeza sikit. Dia sokong bukan kerana individu. Sokong kerana parti, kalau bagi a piece of log there or a stone they will still vote the party because this is my party and I cannot allow my party to lose. The Chinese are much more selective. They did not like me in 1969. They made sure I lost the election but they also made sure the Alliance won the election. So if you choose a person that you don't like to lose, it doesn't mean that the party will win.

Q : You were reported that MIC should be blamed for the Indians plight were you misquoted?

Dr M : No, its not MIC as a political party. But the thing is that people, rather Indians, who may not agree with MIC but still wish to support the BN are not given any chance at all. In their frustration, whether MIC is right or wrong is a different matter, obviously there is no opportunity for anybody else, any other Indians, to come up.

Q : What role are you trying to play in the next General Election?

Dr M : I'm trying to promote cleansing of the party by the people, because within the party it is not possible to cleanse. If I say anything there will be a chorus of people who will curse me including some of my former ministers... they will curse me...so if I'm going to be cursed by them I might as well be cursed for everything else.

Q : Strategi pukul anak sindir menantu...

Dr M : There is a risk in all these things but

I hope that we will love this country enough to vote for the best candidate

Q : Maksudnya Tun boleh terima hakikat pembangkang menang lebih?

Dr M : No, pembangkang tak mungkin menang lebih banyak daripada BN. Lebih banyak dari sekarang mungkin, tapi tak boleh jadi Kerajaan.

Q : More than in 1999?

Dr M : 1999 was a different matter. A question of a black eye.

Q : 99 was issues of emotion, but now isu harga barang, jenayah jadi kebimbangan pada rakyat.

Dr M : Well the issues are different. There is problem of inflation etc but more important is the quality of leadership, quality of UMNO that has degenerated to the point where members cannot say anything. You say something you are hauled up and asked to choose between the PM and whoever. So there is not a slightest freedom that is allowed and in my case I was invited by many people and the people who invited me were called by the police not to go ahead with the invitation, to cancel the invitation. Of course you can use police for implementing the law but there is no law that allows police to threaten people that if they hold the meeting and invite me they will get into trouble. But this is what happened.

During my time Tunku wants to make a speech they can make a speech. Anybody wants to make a speech, even Tengku Razaleigh, I did not stop him. But here the moment I stepped down almost I was practically not allowed to speak.

Q : How do you plan to cleanse the party?

Dr M : Its up to the people to vote in those leaders who are clean because the party will not clean itself

Q : But what is your plan?

Dr M : I don't know all I can say is talk to you (the Press)...

Q : How about the leadership...

Dr M : Its up to the people to make an assessment as to who should continue or who should go.

Q : Your assessment...will there be total change in the line-up?

Dr M : I think there will be no total change. There will be some people who will be retained some people who have not delivered they should not be retained.

Q : The young generation?

Dr M : Unfortunately the young generation does not even bother to register.

Q : Claims of vote buying, any proof?

Dr M : In my case I have proof. People were bribed not to vote for me in my constituency and I expect that to be extended, it was nothing just a small matter but still these attempts were made to prevent me from becoming just a wakil.

Q : Do you think there will be outright vote buying?

Dr M : There is that possibility. I was told in the by election that thing happened. Terima kasih.