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Dr M: Only Barisan is fair to all races

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PUTRAJAYA: The Barisan Nasional was the only platform that allowed all communities to be represented fairly, even if not equally, said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the BN was the best bet for the country's political system and cautioned its component members against demands that could threaten the unity of the coalition.

Commenting on the MCA's proposal for a second deputy chairman's post, Dr Mahathir said the BN leadership had to think it through.

He also warned that the BN even risked losing the support of the Malays if the MCA demand was acceded to.

"Think carefully whether this can really pull in the support of the Chinese community or reduce Malay support.

"If BN were to gain Chinese support because of the new position but lose the Malays who feel slighted, the party will still be weak. This is a coalition and we need the support of all component parties."

Asked if it would be detrimental to BN if the MCA proposal was rejected,

he said if BN was put at risk, it would not only be damaging to the Chinese community, but also to the country.

He said MCA must focus on the big picture as there were many other issues concerning the Chinese. He said MCA and other BN component parties should attend to the root causes that led voters to ditch them in the last election.

Dr Mahathir added that he agreed with International Trade and Industry Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin that the campaign period for the party elections was too long.