

MAHATHIR - CONGRESS  
BM

KUCHING, MARCH 26 (BERNAMA) -- THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN MALAYSIA HAS BEEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THOSE PRACTISED BY SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES BECAUSE ITS LEADERS ARE NOT POWER-CRAZY, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THIS EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS WAS ALSO DUE TO THE ATTITUDE OF LEAVING ASIDE CAUSES FOR DISSENSION WHICH WERE ALSO ALWAYS PRESENT IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA.

HE SAID THAT THE FORMATION OF THE PARISAN NASIONAL WAS ONE SUCH PROOF THAT THE LEADERS OF THE MAJOR PARTY WERE WILLING TO SHARE THEIR POWERS WITH OTHER PARTIES IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION.

THE ATTITUDE OF FAIRNESS WAS DEMONSTRATED BY THE LATE TUN RAZAK AND THE LATE TUN DR. ISMAIL WHO HAD RETURNED THEIR POWERS TO THE PEOPLE AFTER THE EMERGENCY OF 1969.

LEADERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES GIVEN SUCH WIDE POWERS WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED THEM TO THE PEOPLE SO EASILY, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE PARTI PESAKA BUMIPUTRA BERSATU SARAWAK (PBB) AT THE DEWAN TUN ABDUL RAZAK HERE. -- BERNAMA  
MORE 1547/ZCM

MAHATHIR - CONGRESS 2 KUCHING

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE MANY CAUSES OF DISSENSION IN THE COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA, SARAH AND SARAWAK WHICH WERE SEPARATED BY A WIDE EXPANSE OF SEA.

SUCH CAUSES OF DISSENSION INCLUDED THE SEPARATE GOVERNMENTS AND POLICIES WHICH INITIALLY WAS AN OBSTACLE TO UNITY.

HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF HOW DURING ALL HIS VISITS TO SARAWAK WITH TUN RAZAK IN 1968, HE HAD FELT LIKE A FOREIGNER IN THIS STATE.

HOWEVER THE SITUATION HAD CHANGED GREATLY. NOW THE FEELING OF BEING AMONG THE FAMILY AND FEELING OF GOODWILL WAS EVIDENT, HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THIS CHANGE WAS DUE TO THE GOOD ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN YAKUB, WHO HAD RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING STRIVED FOR THE MALAYSIAN CONCEPT TO UNITE THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK WITH THOSE OF PENINSULAR MALAYSIA.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE PARISAN NASIONAL CONCEPT ACTUALLY BEGAN IN SARAWAK WITH THE FORMATION OF THE COALITION SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN 1970. -- BERNAMA MORE 1551/ZCM

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DURING THAT YEAR, THE PARTI BUMIPUTRA SARAWAK (PBS) HAD INVITED THE SARAWAK UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY (SUPP), WHICH WAS THEN IN OPPOSITION, TO FORM THE FIRST COALITION GOVERNMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

ALTHOUGH THE ALLIANCE IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA HAD SUFFICIENT SEATS TO GOVERN, ITS LEADERS OFFERED OTHER PARTIES A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN COALITION GOVERNMENTS LIKE THAT IN SARAWAK.

DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE PARISAN NASIONAL CONCEPT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE NATIONAL ELECTION IN 1974 WHERE ITS CANDIDATES OBTAINED A LARGE MAJORITY.

THE CONCEPT, HE SAID, HAD HELPED TO SURMOUNT VARIOUS PROBLEMS AS WELL AS SMOOTHEN THE COUNTRY'S GOVERNMENT.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MANY PROBLEMS YET UNSOLVED, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT WITH A SPIRIT OF GIVE-AND-TAKE AMONG LEADERS OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES IN THE PARISAN NASIONAL, ALL THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE OVERCOME.

ON THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE STATE, DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWED ANY PERSON TO FORM SUCH PARTIES PROVIDED THEY DID NOT TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT ILLEGALLY.

ALTHOUGH THERE WAS WIDE AND LIBERAL POLITICAL FREEDOM IN THE COUNTRY, LEADERS NOW REALISED AND WERE WILLING TO WORK UNDER THE COALITION GOVERNMENT SYSTEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 1602/YF

MAHATHIR-CONGRESS 4 KUCHING

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD ENABLE PBB MEMBERS TO UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN GREATER DEPTH, ESPECIALLY THE CAUSES FOR DISSENSION SO THAT THEY WOULD BE MORE MATURED POLITICALLY.

PBB ACTING PRESIDENT DATUK AMAR HAJI TAIB MAHMUD, IN HIS SPEECH, SAID THE ROOTS OF THE PARTY'S POLITICAL STRUGGLE WERE FOUND IN THE HISTORY OF THE PARTI NEGARA SARAWAK (PANAS), PARISAN JATI RAKYAT SARAWAK (BERJASA) AND THE PARTI PESAKA ANAK SARAWAK (PESAKA) BEFORE THE FORMATION OF MALAYSIA.

PANAS AND BERJASA MERGED IN THE LATE 1960'S THROUGH THE FORMATION OF THE PARTI BUMIPUTRA SARAWAK, WHICH LATER MERGED WITH PESAKA IN 1974 TO BECOME THE PRESENT PBB.

AS SUCH THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE PBB SHOULD BE BASED ON THE EXPERIENCED GAINED OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS.

DATUK AMAR TAIB, WHO IS ALSO INFORMATION MINISTER, URGED ALL MEMBERS TO PRESERVE THE SUCH ACHIEVEMENTS AND TO REMAIN TO DISCIPLINED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1622/YF

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THEY WERE ALSO URGED TO ENSURE SUCH SUCCESSES TO CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PEOPLE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING STANDARDS IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS.

ON THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY, DATUK AMAR TAIB REMINDED ALL DIVISIONS AND BRANCHES THAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE PEOPLE AT ALL LEVELS TO REALISE THEIR OWN ROLE INCREATING A SELF-RELIANT SOCIETY.

HE SAID THAT WITH THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN AND WITH THE INCREASED ALLOCATION FOR THE STATE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS REQUIRED GREATER PARTICIPATION FROM THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER DATUK HUSSEIN AND DR MAHATHIR HAD GIVEN 100 PER CENT OF THEIR ATTENTION TO MAKING THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE THIRD MALAYSIA PLAN SUCCEED.

THE TWO LEADERS WERE CONVINCED THAT THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY DEPENDED ON THE PEOPLE'S SUCCESS IN MARSHALLING THEIR ENERGIES IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE A UNITED COUNTRY.