

MAHATHIR
BM

83
KUCHING, AUG. 31 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PRACTICE FAVOURITISM IN ITS TREATMENT OF THE STATES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WERE ALLOCATED ACCORDING TO PRIORITIES AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF EACH STATE.

"IN MALAYSIA, THERE IS NO STATE THAT IS BOSS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, AND THERE IS NO FAVOURITISM IN SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF STATES BECAUSE ADMINISTRATION-WISE ALL ARE THE SAME," HE SAID.

DURING THIS ERA OF RECESSION, ONLY SABAH, SARAWAK AND TERENGGANU WERE EARNING MORE THAN THEIR OPERATION EXPENDITURE, HE SAID.

"THIS HAPPENS TO BE THE SITUATION AND IT HAS CAUSED NO RESENTMENT AMONG THE OTHER STATES," HE ADDED AT A PARADE HELD HERE AS PART OF SARAWAK'S 20TH SARAWAK CELEBRATIONS.

-- MORE 1833/LK

ZCZC N090:

MAHATHIR 2 KUCHING

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT TIES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS MUST BE CONSTANTLY PROMOTED AND PRESERVED TO ENSURE UNDERSTANDING AND SOLIDARITY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

"PAROCHIAL AND COMMUNAL SENTIMENTS WHICH CAN JEOPARDISE THE STRONG TIES AMONG THE STATES IN MALAYSIA MUST BE KEPT OUT," HE ADDED.

REFERRING TO SARAWAK, HE SAID ITS DISTANCE FROM THE PENINSULA DID NOT PREVENT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM GIVING THE STATE SERIOUS ATTENTION.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE INTEGRATION PROCESS INVOLVING ALL FIELDS, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SOCIAL AND COMMUNICATION ASPECTS.

HE SAID THAT MALAYSIANS SEPARATED BY SEA FROM THE PENINSULA +SHOULD NOT ISOLATE THEMSELVES FROM THE CURRENTS OF NATIONAL SOLIDARITY.+

-- MORE 1837/LK

MAHATHIR 3 KUCHING

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT PEOPLE IN ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY SHOULD HAVE HARMONIOUS RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER AND +BE CLOSE AS BROTHERS AND NOT MERELY AS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.+

THE PEOPLE SHOULD STRIVE TO FOSTER RELATIONS WITH ONE ANOTHER THAT TRANSCENDED RELIGION AND CULTURE, HE ADDED.

HE SAID HE REGRETTED THAT THERE WERE STILL PEOPLE WHO TRIED TO DESTROY MULTI-RACIAL WELL-BEING WITH LIES.

THESE PEOPLE WERE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WEAKNESSES TO MAGNIFY AND SCREAM ABOUT BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD MAKE THEM POPULAR AND RESPECTED AS CHAMPIONS OF GROUPS THAT THEY LIKED TO THINK AS OPPRESSED.

THERE WERE THOSE AMONG THEM WHO WERE WILLING TO BE TOOLS OF OTHER COUNTRIES OUT OF FRUSTRATION OVER THEIR FAILURE TO ACHIEVE WHAT THEY WANTED, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

-- MORE 1842/LK

ZCZC N092:

MAHATHIR 4 KUCHING

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD ASSESS FOR THEMSELVES HOW FAR THE NATION HAD PROGRESSED SINCE INDEPENDENCE, DRAWING THEIR CONCLUSIONS FROM THE REALITY OF DEVELOPMENT AND WITHOUT BEING INFLUENCED BY LIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT INDEPENDENCE COULD NOT BE PRESERVED WITHOUT PROMOTING AND MAINTAINING UNITY AND PROSPERITY AMONG THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THAT UNITY COULD NOT BE QUICKLY ACHIEVED BECAUSE IT REQUIRED EFFORT AND SINCERITY BY ALL.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE CONTRIBUTION OF PAST LEADERS SUCH AS FORMER PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, THE LATE

DATUK BANDAR ABANG HAJI MUSTAPHA AND THE LATE TUN TEMENGGONG JUGAH WHO HAD HELPED TO LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR THE CREATION OF MALAYSIA. 'IT IS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THAT MALAYSIANS CAN LIVE AS A SOVERIGN AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE TODAY,' HE ADDED.
-- MORE 1847/LK

ZCZC N093:
MAHATHIR 5 KUCHING

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT HE WAS GLAD THAT ALL MISGIVINGS THAT SOME PEOPLE IN SARAWAK HAD OVER THE FORMATION OF MALAYSIA HAD DISAPPEARED.

THESE PEOPLE HAD MISGIVINGS BECAUSE THEY THOUGHT THAT SARAWAK WOULD BE +COLONIALISED+ BY MALAYA THROUGH MALAYSIA AND NON-MALAYS WOULD LOSE THEIR IDENTITY AND CULTURE.

BUT THESE MISGIVINGS HAD SINCE BEEN PROVEN TO BE BASELESS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED THE PEOPLE TO CONCENTRATE THEIR EFFORTS TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS, PROGRESSIVE AND HARMONIOUS MALAYSIA. → 106

-- BERNAMA 1849/LK

MAHATHIR 6 KUCHING (REOPENS ITEM 93)
BM

EARLIER, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD SAID IT WAS THE DUTY OF THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK TO HELP MALAYSIA BECOME A STRONG FORCE.

+I HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE SECOND GENERATION AFTER MERDEKA, STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE TO SERVE AS ONE TEAM WITH THE PEOPLE IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S AND THE CHIEF MINISTER'S SPEECHES WERE CARRIED LIVE OVER RADIO BY RTM SARAWAK.

MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE CENTRAL PADANG AND THE MAIN ROADS IN ITS VICINITY TO WATCH THE COLOURFUL PARADE AND RALLY. -- MORE 2010/MK

ZCZC N109 (F/S)
MAHATHIR
MAHATHIR 7 KUCHING

A TOTAL OF 66 CONTINGENTS FROM THE UNIFORMED UNITS, GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS, SOCIAL AND VOLUNTARY BODIES AND SCHOOLS TOOK PART IN THE RALLY AND PARADE.

THE YANG DIPERTUA NEGERI SARAWAK TUN DATUK PATINGGI HAJI RAHMAN YAKUB TOOK THE SALUTE DURING THE MARCH PAST. -- BERNAMA 2011/MK