

MAHATHIR-PBB
BM

83
KUCHING, SEPT. 10 (BERNAMA)--(DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY SPOKE OF THE NEED TO PRACTISE THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM EFFECTIVELY TO AVOID THE DANGER OF THE COUNTRY FALLING IN TO THE HANDS OF DICTATORS.

MANY DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES FELL INTO THE HANDS OF DICTATORS BECAUSE THEIR PEOPLE DID NOT KNOW HOW TO USE DEMOCRACY PROPERLY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID.

OPENING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTI PESAKA BUMIPUTRA BERSATU (PBB) HERE, HE SAID THAT A TOTALITARIAN OR A FEUDAL GOVERNMENT WOULD EMERGE IF THERE WAS CHAOS IN A COUNTRY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, SOME DICTATORS ABUSED THEIR POWERS BUT THE PEOPLE COULD NOT DO ANYTHING BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT WAS POWERFUL.

IN MALAYSIA IF THE GOVERNMENT ABUSED ITS POWER, THE PEOPLE COULD CHOOSE ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IN AN ELECTION WHICH IS HELD ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS, HE SAID.

----MORE 1730/MD

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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT DEMOCRACY PRACTISED IN MALAYSIA WAS MORE COMPLEX COMPARED WITH THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN VIEW OF ITS POPULATION WHICH COMPRISED PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC ORIGINS WHO SPEAK DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND PROFESS DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

IN A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY LIKE MALAYSIA, HE SAID, A GIVE-AND-TAKE ATTITUDE WAS IMPORTANT, OTHERWISE MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD OCCUR.

HE SAID IT WAS EASIER TO PRACTISE DEMOCRACY IN MOST WESTERN COUNTRIES AS THE PEOPLE WERE OF THE SAME RACE AND RELIGION AND SPEAK A COMMON LANGUAGE.

HE SAID THAT THE COALITION TYPE OF GOVERNMENT PRACTISED IN MALAYSIA SINCE INDEPENDENCE WAS NOT DONE ON AN AD-HOC BASIS AS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. --MORE 1755/MD

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THE COALITION GOVERNMENT SINCE THE TIME OF THE ALLIANCE TO THE PRESENT BARISAN NASIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN AGREED TO BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION AND NOT AFTER IT WAS HELD, HE SAID.

THE DIVISION OF POWER AMONG THE COMPONENT PARTIES WAS MADE IN SUCH A WAY SO AS NOT TO AFFECT THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE IT UPHELD, HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT THE PREVAILING SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG MEMBERS OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL HAD ENABLED IT TO RULE AT STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF BARISAN NASIONAL, ADVISED ALL COMPONENT PARTIES TO ALWAYS MAINTAIN UNITY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTIES.

HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF THE PARTIES BUT AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL HE MUST ENSURE MATURITY AND UNITY OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES. --MORE

MAHATHIR-PBB 4 KUCHING

DESCRIBING CRISIS IN A POLITICAL PARTY AS A NORMAL THING, HE SAID THAT IT, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SPREAD AND AFFECT UNITY IN THE PARTY AND IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL.

HE ATTRIBUTED THE RAPID RATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE TO THE STABILITY AND MATURITY OF THE STATE LEADERSHIP.

WITHOUT POLITICAL MATURITY, WEALTH AND MONEY WOULD BE MEANINGLESS, HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT SARAWAK WAS RICH WITH NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING OIL, TIMBER AND COAL SINCE THE COLONIAL DAYS BUT RAPID DEVELOPMENT ONLY OCCURRED AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

ALSO PRESENT WERE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA SITI HASMAH, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD, STATE MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF BN COMPONENT PARTIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR HASMAH EARLIER CALLED ON THE YANG DIPERTUA NEGERI TUN DATUK PATINGGI ABDUL RAHMAN YAACOB AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL HERE. --BERNAMA 1812/MD