

B E487 DEE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION
BM

-PS (P)
KOTA KINABALU, APRIL 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED SADNESS THAT SOME POLITICAL PARTIES IN SABAH CAN RESORT TO USING RELIGION TO GET THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THEM IN THE STATE ELECTION.

HE CAUTIONED THAT THIS WAS A DANGEROUS PRACTICE WHICH COULD CAUSE ENMITY BETWEEN THE FOLLOWERS OF THE VARIOUS RELIGIONS IN THE STATE.

IF THAT HAPPENED, THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES, HE SAID WHEN ADDRESSING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AT A SOLIDARITY GATHERING AT THE TOWN PADANG HERE.

THE GATHERING WAS ORGANISED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S ONE-DAY VISIT TO SABAH.

THE PEOPLE BRAVED A DRIZZLE TO LISTEN TO THEIR PRIME MINISTER, APPLAUDING HIM SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE SPEECH. -- MORE
194DMST 04 04 85

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B E490 DEE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION 2 KOTA KINABALU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HOPED THOSE INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITY REMEMBERED THE RACIAL RIOTS OF MAY 13, 1969.

HE SAID THE RACIAL SOLIDARITY THAT PREVAILED IN THE STATE WAS THE RESULT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF A GOVERNMENT REPRESENTED BY VARIOUS COMMUNITIES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID POLITICAL PARTIES THAT USED RELIGION TO GET THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT WOULD NOT BE ELECTED INTO POWER IN THE COUNTRY BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WANTED REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL COMMUNITIES AND FAITHS.

IN THIS CONTEXT, BERJAYA DID NOT ADOPT AN ANTI-ISLAMIC OR ANTI-CHRISTIAN STAND AS ALLEGED BY CERTAIN GROUPS.

BERJAYA, AS ONE OF THE COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, WAS GUIDED BY MODERATION AND FAIRNESS TO ALL. -- MORE
1958MST 04 04 85

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B E491 DEE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION 3 KOTA KINABALU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL, CRITICISED A POLITICAL PARTY IN SABAH WHICH HE SAID BELITTLED THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND SABAH GOVERNMENTS.

HE SAID THE LEADERS OF THAT PARTY, SHOULD THEY BE IN POWER, WOULD PREFER THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO KEEP AWAY FROM THE STATE OTHERWISE THEY WOULD BE PREVENTED FROM DOING WHAT THEY LIKED TO EXPLOIT THE PEOPLE AND ENJOY THE WEALTH OF THE STATE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD TO TOUCH ON THE SUBJECT BECAUSE HE DID NOT WISH TO SEE THE PEOPLE OF SABAH FOOLED ONCE AGAIN BY A PARTY THAT USED ITS POWER TO AMASS WEALTH FOR ITS LEADERS.

HE REITERATED THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BERJAYA REGARDLESS OF ITS SHOWING IN THE STATE ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 20-21.

HE SAID THIS WAS NOT A THREAT BUT PROOF THAT THE BARISAN NASIONAL HELD FAST TO ITS PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION AMONG THE COMMUNITIES. -- MORE
2004MST 04 04 85

U E500 DEE
MAHATHIR-RELIGION 4 KOTA KINABALU

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS CONFIDENT OF SABAHANS' CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL BECAUSE THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE GOVERNMENT UNDER BERJAYA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD BROUGHT THEM DEVELOPMENT.

HE ALSO SAID THE PEOPLE OF SABAH WOULD REALISE THAT THOUGH THE STATE WAS RICH IN RESOURCES, ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS NECESSARY TO ENHANCE FURTHER THEIR STANDARD OF LIVING.

SABAH CHIEF MINISTER DATUK HARRIS SALLEH SAID THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INSTIGATE THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE 1976.

DATUK HARRIS, WHO WAS ALSO APPLAUDED WHEN HE CRITICISED OPPOSITION PARTIES, SAID BERJAYA WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE.

AT A SEPARATE FUNCTION, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH HANDED A CHEQUE FOR \$2,500 TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE SABAH SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ENCIK KAMARUDIN LINGAM, IN HER CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF BAKTI, THE WELFARE BODY OF WIVES OF MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS. THE MONEY, FROM BAKTI, IS FOR NEEDY STUDENTS IN SABAH. --
BERNAMA

2036MST 04 04 85
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