

# PM hits out at groups that oppose Berjaya

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LAHAD DATU, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir ~~Muhamad~~ today criticised those who opposed the Berjaya party in Sabah, saying they belonged to extremist groups.

The Prime Minister said that at one time, Berjaya had been accused of opposing Islam. Now, it was being charged with being against non-Muslims.

Such accusations were dangerous and if these extremists were allowed to carry on making such allegations, the harmony enjoyed by the people of Sabah, who belonged to various races and religions, would be adversely affected, Dr Mahathir said.

Addressing community leaders at the Dewan Tun Datu Mustapha, the Prime Minister said the Berjaya

way of life among people who belonged to various races and religions.

Although there existed several other parties that claimed to be multi-racial, it was clear that the membership of these parties comprised mainly of one race, he said.

"I would like to say *syabas* (well done) to Berjaya for having succeeded in creating such a conducive atmosphere," he said to the applause of about 1,000 people in the hall.

The Prime Minister called on the people of Sabah to reject any form of extremism that could threaten peace, order and harmony.

He said that since Berjaya came to power, it had brought about many changes and he was satisfied with the develop-

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Government was anti-Islam were baseless as the State Government had given due consideration to the propagation of the religion in the State.

This, on the other hand, had caused certain people to blame the Government for what they claimed was "neglect of the non-Muslim communities", he said.

## Attracted

Dr Mahathir said the State Government implemented its policies with the interests of all the people, both Muslims and non-Muslims, in mind.

He said Islam was a religion of moderation and that actions that caused conflicts were contrary to the teachings of the religion.

He also said that Berjaya was a multi-racial party and had proven its capability in evolving a

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ment achieved by the State.

Sabah's success in development had attracted the attention of people not only in the other States but also in neighbouring countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines who, he said, had also contributed to its development.

The Prime Minister gave an assurance that the Federal Government would continue to give serious attention to development in Sabah, particularly in the provision of infrastructure facilities.

As of this year, the Federal Government had taken over the responsibility of building and maintaining many of the main roads in Sabah, including the Sandakan-Lahad Datu highway and the bridges along it.

However, this would take time as a thorough study had to be made because the highway passed through many low-lying areas that were prone to floods.

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Harris Salleh, later made a surprise visit to the district hospital nearby.