

Mahathir tells why country is successful

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JOHORE BARU, Fri.

— Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government has succeeded exceptionally well in areas where many countries had failed because "we have been doing things for the benefit of the people without fear of anybody".

There were countries around the world which had been torn apart and their development threatened because of interference by foreign powers.

"There are those who even go to the extent of branding us as being barbaric, but we know we have been doing things that are fair ... for the good of the people," he said.

"The steps taken may not be popular but people eventually realise the rationale behind them."

The Prime Minister was addressing about 6,000 Barisan Nasional supporters at a gathering to mark the 13th anniversary of the Barisan Nasional organised by the Pulai Umno division at

By

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Tampoi near here this evening.

It is because of the fairness of the Government that local and foreign investors have the confidence to set up factories here and provide jobs.

There are opposition parties and organisations which are saying the Government will not be able to rule the country without a two-thirds majority. The Government has never been proud or conceited about having run the country with a two-thirds majority.

Views

"If we are conceited, arrogant, then why have we been so willing to go down to the masses, hold dialogues with people, listen to their views, provide allocations for projects?" he asked.

The Government is committed to serving the country and bringing development to the masses so that all Malaysians

could enjoy the benefits.

If the Government is still able to hold on to a two-thirds majority, "we will be able to continue channelling our resources and energy to the development of the nation".

If there is no co-operation among the various races, there is a possibility of the Government suffering "losses (of seats) here and there".

"Threats can break up party unity and slow down the whole process of building a united country."

Dr Mahathir also took to task opposition parties and critics within certain organisations for saying that the Barisan Nasional had been in power for far too long and that it was about time for a change in Government.

"But there are examples of Governments which have been in power for as long as we have been and whose countries have seen tremendous progress and achievement, for example Japan,

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Korea and our neighbour (Singapore).

"I believe that as long as the Barisan Nasional has the two-thirds majority, we will be able to enjoy the development and progress that we have seen to date, and live together."

Earlier, Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah were given a rousing welcome when they arrived at Gelang Patah for a short visit to the Pulai constituency.

They were met on arrival by Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ajib Ahmad, his wife Datin Ropeah Hassan, MP for Pulai and Pulai Barisan Nasional chairman Datuk Mohamad Rahmat and his wife Datin Salbiah Abdul

Hamid, State Executive Councillors and leaders of the Pulai Barisan Nasional.

The visit is the couple's first to Gelang Patah — a town of mostly farmers and fishermen.

Dr Mahathir and Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah later had lunch at the Kampung Melayu surau.

Dr Mahathir performed Friday prayers at the Gelang Patah Masjid Jamek while Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah attended a handicraft display by the Pulai Wanita at the Farmers Organisation Authority (FOA) office at the 15km Jalan Sekudai.

The Prime Minister was earlier granted an audience by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong at the Istana Bukit Serene.