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SIBU, APRIL 10 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE BARISAN NASIONAL WAS SET UP ON A POWER SHARING BASIS AMONG THE VARIOUS PARTIES AND RACES TO ENSURE HARMONY AND STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BN CONCEPT INVOLVED PARTICIPATION OF ALL RACES IN THE GOVERNMENT TO ENABLE THEIR RESPECTIVE INTERESTS TO RECEIVE DUE ATTENTION.

+WE ARE NOT GREEDY FOR POWER AND DO NOT INTEND TO KEEP POWER ALL TO OURSELVES,+ HE TOLD MORE THAN 15,000 BN SUPPORTERS WHO GATHERED AT THE TUN TUANKU HAJI BUJANG FIELD HERE TO GREET DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO CAME FOR A BRIEF VISIT.

HE STRESSED THAT THE FORMATION OF THE BN ENABLED THE INTERESTS OF ALL RACES, INCLUDING THE MINORITY GROUPS, TO BE SAFEGUARDED AS WELL AS GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO RUN THE COUNTRY, AT LEAST AT LOCAL LEVEL.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN CHAIRMAN AND UMNO PRESIDENT, ATTRIBUTED THE BN'S SUCCESS TO ITS POWER SHARING CONCEPT WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS UNIQUE IN VIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S MULTIRACIAL POPULATION. -- MORE  
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+SUCH SUCCESS MAKES POSSIBLE RAPID DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND HARMONY AMONG THE PEOPLE,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID ONLY A STABLE AND UNITED COUNTRY COULD DEVOTE ITS FULL ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS.

HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO WORK HARD AND CONTINUE STRIVING TO ENSURE THE COUNTRY WAS FREE FROM THREATS BY VARIOUS UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS OUT TO CREATE DISUNITY AMONG THEM.

HE STRESSED THAT THE STRENGTH OF GOVERNMENT WAS DERIVED FROM THAT OF THE PEOPLE, WHILE A WEAK GOVERNMENT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF THE PEOPLE AND THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS THANKFUL MALAYSIA WAS FREE FROM SERIOUS THREATS THAT COULD BRING DESTRUCTION AND CHAOS SUCH AS THE VIOLENCE CAUSED BY COMMUNIST TERRORISTS AND CRIMINALS. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO BRING DEVELOPMENT TO PLACES +WHERE THE MEANING OF DEVELOPMENT WAS NOT EVEN KNOWN IN THE PAST.+ -- MORE  
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HE CRITICISED OPPOSITION PARTIES WHICH CLAIMED SARAWAK WAS NOT GIVEN PRIORITY IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, SAYING:+THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE UNTRUE AS WE PRACTISE A POLICY OF EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE RESPECTIVE STATES IN THE COUNTRY,+.

EARLIER, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD PLEDGED THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER.

HE SAID MALAYSIA HAD ENTERED A NEW ERA OF DEVELOPMENT AND HAD GAINED WORLDWIDE RESPECT UNDER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S LEADERSHIP.

THE CHIEF MINISTER ADDED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET, WHICH INCLUDED MANY SECOND GENERATION LEADERS, WOULD LEAD MALAYSIA TO A LEVEL OF GREATER PROGRESS IN LINE WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF INDEPENDENCE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR AND DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH WERE WELCOMED IN COLOURFUL AND TRADITIONAL FASHION ON ARRIVAL AT THE FIELD FROM SIBU AIRPORT. -- BERNAMA  
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