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MATU (SARAWAK), APRIL 14⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO PRESERVE THE FAMILY SPIRIT, LIKE THAT CONTAINED WITHIN THE BARISAN NASIONAL CONCEPT. (P)

HE SAID THE BN CONCEPT BROUGHT ABOUT FAIR POWER-SHARING AMONG ALL COMMUNITIES, AND DID NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF ONE COMMUNITY ONLY.

+WE CANNOT THINK ONLY OF THE INTERESTS OF ONE COMMUNITY AS THIS WILL CREATE DISSATISFACTION AMONG THE OTHER COMMUNITIES,+ HE SAID AT A MEET-THE-PEOPLE SESSION HERE.

PRESENT WERE MCA PRESIDENT DATUK DR LING LIONG SIK, MIC PRESIDENT DATUK S.SAMY VELLU AND GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK DR LIM KENG YAIK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO BN NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID THAT IN THE PENINSULA, EVEN THOUGH THE MALAYS COMPRISED 52 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION, THEY WERE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES.

LIKewise, THE MAJORITY COMMUNITY IN SARAWAK NEED TO HAVE COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER COMMUNITIES, HE SAID. -- MORE
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HE SAID THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES WITH MULTI-RCIAL POPULATIONS RACIAL CONFLICTS, WARS AND KILLING OF ONE ANOTHER HAD OCCURRED BECAUSE THERE WAS NO COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING AMONG THE COMMUNITIES.

+WE ARE THANKFUL THAT IN SARAWAK SUCH THINGS DID NOT OCCUR BECAUSE SINCE INDEPENDENCE THE PEOPLE HAD PRACTISED THE CONCEPT OF COOPERATION THROUGH THE CONCEPT OF THE ALLIANCE AND LATER THE BARISAN NASIONAL,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED THE PEOPLE TO GIVE THEIR SUPPORT TO CANDIDATES FROM THE NASIONAL IN THE STATE ELECTION, POLLING OF WHICH WILL BE HELD TOMORROW AND ON THURSDAY, TO ENABLE THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE RULING THE STATE.

+IF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WAS CUT OFF HALFWAY, IT IS CERTAIN THAT MANY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES WILL NOT BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED,+ HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ANY CHANGE WITHIN THE BN GOVERNMENT, IF NECESSARY, SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT ORDERLY AND THROUGH CONSULTATIONS SO THAT IT DID NOT AFFECT THE ADMINISTRATION AND NECESSITATED A GENERAL ELECTION. -- MORE
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IN HIS SPEECH, CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD EXPRESSED REGRET OVER CERTAIN ACTIONS OF THE OPPOSITION IN ITS CAMPAIGN.

HE SAID VARIOUS SLANDER AND EMPTY PROPAGANDA HAD BEEN HURLED AGAINST COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BARISAN NASIONAL IN EFFORTS TO SECURE VOTES.

DATUK PATINGGI TAIB SAID THE OPPOSITION HAD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, ALLEGED THAT THE VISIT OF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR TO SARAWAK WAS TO ENABLE THE PRIME MINISTER TO REPLACE HIM WITH A FORMER CHIEF MINISTER WHO, IT WAS CLAIMED, WAS MORE CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT ISLAMIC EFFORTS AND DEVELOPING THE STATE.

+THE EMPTY PROPAGANDA AND ACCUSATIONS, AS WELL AS WILD ALLEGATIONS, REFLECT THE DIRTY POLITICS PLAYED BY THE OPPOSITION AND IT (THE OPPOSITION) SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN SUPPORT,+ HE SAID.

ON DEVELOPMENT IN MATU, HE SAID THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAD ALLOCATED NEARLY \$35 MILLION FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE AREA UNDER THE CURRENT FIFTH MALAYSIA PLAN. -- BERNAMA
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