

B E833 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION R R R

(P)

BM

SARIKEI, APRIL 14⁸⁷ (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT THINK ONLY ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES AS THIS COULD CREATE TENSION IN INTER-RACIAL RELATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT PROBLEMS FACING THE VARIOUS RACES SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE DISCUSSION TABLE AND THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE BARISAN NASIONAL CONCEPT WHERE THE INTERESTS OF ALL COMMUNITIES WERE GIVEN DUE CONSIDERATION.

+UNDER THE BN CONCEPT, ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE REPRESENTATION NOT ONLY AT STATE LEVEL BUT ALSO AT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL,+ HE SAID AT THE FOUNDATION-STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE SARIKEI COMMUNITY HALL.

PRESENT WERE MCA PRESIDENT DATUK DR LING LIONG SIK, MIC PRESIDENT DATUK S. SAMY VELLU, GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK DR LIM KENG YAIK AND SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER AND PARTI PESKA BUMIPUTERA BERBATU (PBB) PRESIDENT DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD. THE FIRST THREE ARE BN COMPONENT PARTIES IN THE PENINSULA AND THE PBB A COMPONENT IN SARAWAK.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT IF A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY WERE TO ACT ACCORDING TO ITS DESIRES, RACIAL TENSION WOULD RESULT.

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1605MST 14 04 87

D206

B E835 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 2 SARIKEI R R R

+IF THIS OCCURS, NO ONE WILL STAND TO GAIN,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS BARISAN NASIONAL NATIONAL CHAIRMAN, SAID THE COALITION'S OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENHANCE RELATIONS AND UNITE THE VARIOUS RACES IN THE COUNTRY.

WITH THE BN, ALL RACES COULD MEET AND DISCUSS WAYS TO OVERCOME ANY PROBLEMS, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE BN CONCEPT HAD DISPROVED ALLEGATIONS BY CERTAIN QUARTERS THAT THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY COULD NOT LIVE TOGETHER PEACEFULLY.

HE SAID THESE QUARTERS HAD FELT THAT AFTER INDEPENDENCE THERE WOULD BE ONE RACE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE MALAYS, WHO WOULD GRAB ALL POWER AND WOULD NOT GIVE A PLACE TO THE OTHER RACES, LEADING TO RIOTS. -- MORE

1614MST 14 04 87

D212

B E838 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 3 SARIKEI R R R

+FAR FROM HAVING RIOTS, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY FOSTERED CLOSE RELATIONS AMONG THE RACES THROUGH THE BN,+ HE SAID.

AS SUCH, HE URGED THE PEOPLE TO PRESERVE THE BN CONCEPT AND ELECT A GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD ENSURE CONTINUED STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FULLY MEET THE PEOPLE'S REQUESTS EVEN THOUGH THERE WERE QUARTERS WHICH PROMISED THEY COULD GIVE THE PEOPLE EVERYTHING THE PEOPLE WANTED.

+IT IS WRONG FOR THEM TO MAKE SUCH PROMISES,+ HE SAID, ASSURING THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PAY ATTENTION TO AND CONSIDER ALL REQUESTS FROM THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO URGED THE SARAWAK PEOPLE WHO WILL BE GOING TO THE POLLS TOMORROW AND THURSDAY TO RETURN THE BN TO POWER AGAIN AS IT GAVE PRIORITY TO SERVING THE PEOPLE. -- MORE

1624MST 14 04 87

D225

B E846 AAE
MAHATHIR-COOPERATION 4 SARIKEI R R R

EARLIER, DATUK PATINGGI TAIB SAID THE BN ALWAYS PAID SERIOUS ATTENTION TO NOT ONLY ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE STATE BUT ALSO THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS.

+AS A STATE WITH 23 ETHNIC GROUPS AND VARIOUS CULTURES, IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THIS FOR THE FUTURE GENERATIONS,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK PATINGGI TAIB SAID THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNITY HALLS IN VARIOUS PLACES THROUGHOUT THE STATE WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AMENITIES FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE SARIKEI COMMUNITY HALL IS LOCATED AT A STRATEGIC SPOT, NEAR TO THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE, HOUSING ESTATES AND THE PROPOSED AREA FOR THE EXPANSION OF SARIKEI TOWN.

THE HALL, WITH A SEATING CAPACITY FOR 750, HAS A STAGE AND THE BUILDING'S STRUCTURE REFLECTS THE CULTURES OF THE VARIOUS RACES IN THE STATE.

WORK STARTED IN MARCH AND THE HALL IS EXPECTED TO BE READY IN JUNE NEXT YEAR, IN TIME FOR THE SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF SARAWAK JOINING MALAYSIA. -- BERNAMA

1649MST 14 04 87