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MAHATHIR-CENTRE
BM

SIBU, JULY 4 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIANS ARE AWARE OF THE VITAL NEED TO FOSTER UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THEIR OWN PROGRESS.

+THEREFORE, THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH THEY CAN ENHANCE THESE QUALITIES TO BE DEVELOPED INTO THE PILLAR OF THE NATION'S STRENGTH,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE \$8 MILLION CIVIC CENTRE +DEWAN SUARAH SIBU+ HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS NATURAL FOR MALAYSIA, WHICH HAD A MULTIRACIAL POPULATION WITH PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT LIFE AND CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS, TO HAVE A DIVERSITY OF VIEWS AND CHARACTER.

+AND THE PEOPLE ARE AWARE THAT WHATEVER THE SITUATION, THEY NEED TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OR THE VIEWS OF THE MAJORITY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID HE WAS PROUD THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK, WHICH HAD A PLURAL SOCIETY WITH DIFFERENT LIFESTYLES, WERE AWARE OF THE REALITIES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS. -- MORE

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+ALTHOUGH THEY ARE OF DIFFERENT RACES, THERE HAS BEEN NO MISUNDERSTANDING,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN ENHANCING THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE.

EARLIER, SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD SAID THE SETTING UP OF THE CENTRE WAS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO DEVELOP THE PEOPLE.

HE ALSO SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO DEVELOP THEMSELVES. -- BERNAMA

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