

MAHATHIR-BN

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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE BALANCE BETWEEN RACIAL HARMONY AND THE ECONOMY IS THE KEY TO CONTINUED PROGRESS IN THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID MALAYSIANS SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT THE MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY HAD SEEN BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN THE RURAL AND URBAN AREAS. +ALL THIS IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG THE COMPONENT PARTIES IN THE BARISAN NASIONAL,+ HE ADDED.

SPEAKING AT A DINNER HELD IN HIS HONOUR BY THE ASSOCIATED CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (ACCCIM) HERE, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE MCA AND UMNO WERE DEPENDENT ON EACH OTHER TO SECURE VICTORY IN PAST GENERAL ELECTIONS.

PRESENT WERE LEADERS OF CHINESE-BASED COMPONENT PARTIES OF THE BN INCLUDING MCA PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LING LIONG SIK, GERAKAN PRESIDENT DATUK SERI DR LIM KENG YAIK AND SUPP PRESIDENT DATUK AMAR STEPHEN YONG. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MALAYSIA, BEING A MULTIRACIAL COUNTRY, WAS NOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR ONE PARTICULAR RACE AND ANY DECISIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF ALL.

+PAS, FOR EXAMPLE, LIVES IN A WORLD OF ITS OWN AS IF NOBODY ELSE IS LIVING IN THE COUNTRY,+ HE SAID OF THE EXTREMIST PARTY WHICH CHAMPIONS ONLY THE RIGHTS OF ITS SUPPORTERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT NEEDED TO WIN BY A CONVINCING TWO-THIRD MAJORITY IN THE NEXT ELECTION TO GAIN RESPECT FROM THE PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM CERTAIN GROUPS WITH THE ELECTION AROUND THE CORNER AND THESE GROUPS WERE MAKING A LOT OF DEMANDS ON THE GOVERNMENT.

AS A GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IT COULD NOT ACCEDE TO SUCH DEMANDS AS IT COULD NOT PLEASE EVERYONE. -- MORE
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THESE GROUPS HAD EVEN DEMANDED THAT THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE BE DONE AWAY WITH WITHOUT REALISING THAT THIS WOULD ANGER THE MALAYS AND THUS THE EXTREMISTS MIGHT BE VOTED IN.

ON THE DAP ORGAN, + THE ROCKET+, HE SAID THE PUBLICATION CONTAINED A LOT OF CRITICISMS ON THE GOVERNMENT WHICH WERE NOT TRUE. EARLIER, ACCIM PRESIDENT TAN SRI WEE BOON PING SAID THE ASSOCIATION WAS CONCERNED OVER THE IMMINENT CONTEST FOR THE MCA PRESIDENCY AND HE APPEALED TO THE PARTY LEADERS TO MAKE EFFORTS TO SEEK AN AMICABLE SOLUTION.

HE SAID AN AMICABLE SOLUTION WOULD BENEFIT TO THE CHINESE COMMUNITY AND THE NATION AS THE MCA WAS A MAJOR REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHINESE IN THE GOVERNMENT. -- BERNAMA