

D348

R E767 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BN  
BM

KUCHING, JULY 27, (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE COUNTRY ENJOYED RAPID DEVELOPMENT AND ITS PEOPLE LIVED IN PEACE AND UNITY BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM GAVE ALL GROUPS THEIR DUE.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) GOVERNMENT DID NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO ANY SINGLE GROUP, RACE OR STATE WHEN GRANTING DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

+ALTHOUGH THE STATES HAVE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS, WE GENERALLY REGARD OURSELVES AS A MALAYSIAN RACE,+ HE TOLD SOME 2,000 PEOPLE WHO TURNED UP AT THE KUCHING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE TO WELCOME HIM.

PRESENT AT THE AIRPORT WAS SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER TAN SRI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD. DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DATUK PADUKA DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH ALI, WILL CLOSE THE THIRD MALAYSIA GAMES (SUKMA) HERE TONIGHT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE PEOPLE'S ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY WITHOUT HAVING ANY MAJOR MISUNDERSTANDINGS HAS MADE MALAYSIA WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AS A HIGHLY DEVELOPED NATION.

HE POINTED OUT THAT MANY FOREIGN LEADERS WHO ATTENDED THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING (CHOGM) AND GROUP OF 15 MEETING (G-15) IN KUALA LUMPUR RECENTLY, WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE PROGRESS THEY SAW AND THE HARMONY ENJOYED BY THE MULTI-RACIAL PEOPLE. -- MORE

2045MST 27 07 90

MAHATHIR-BN\_2 KUCHING

THE LEADERS ALSO LAUDED HOW THE VARIOUS RACES PRESERVED USE OF THEIR MOTHER TONGUE AND CULTURES BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, ADOPTED ONE COMMON LANGUAGE AND DID NOT HAVE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITH ONE ANOTHER, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WAS VITAL FOR THE PEOPLE TO DETERMINE THEIR FUTURE BY ENSURING THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE BN ARE MAINTAINED.

HE STRESSED THAT IT IS THE BN GOVERNMENT'S ASPIRATION TO SEE TIES BETWEEN THE BN GOVERNMENTS GROW STRONGER AND THE PEOPLE, UNITED.

HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE IN SARAWAK WOULD CONTINUE TO FOSTER RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER STATES.

HE ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN SLIGHT TENSION IN THE RELATIONS, SUCH AS IN THE SOCCER FIELD, BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT THESE WERE MERELY INCIDENTS IN THE SPIRIT OF SPORTS AND DID NOT FESTER BECAUSE ALL WOULD BE WELL AGAIN AFTER THE GAME ENDED.

+LIKE A COUPLE, IF THEY ARE ALWAYS GOOD, IT WOULD BE BORING. SO, ONCE IN A WHILE, THERE SHOULD BE A SQUABBLE BUT WHEN IT PASSES, WE SEE THEM GET BACK TOGETHER AGAIN, HUGGING AND KISSING,+ HE QUIPPED AMIDST LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE FROM THE CROWD. -- MORE

2056MST 27 07 90

D356

R E769 AAE  
MAHATHIR-BN 3 KUCHING

+SIMILARLY WITH THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE OUR LITTLE DIFFERENCES, IN THE END, WE ARE CLOSE AGAIN,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THROUGH SUKMA, EVERYONE HAD THE CHANCE TO COMPETE IN THE SPIRIT OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND SARAWAK PERFORMED EXCELLENTLY BY WINNING 44 GOLDS TO EMERGE CHAMPIONS.

-BUT LUCKILY, THE CHIEF MINISTER SAID SARAWAK STOPPED AT 44 AND NOT AT 46. I AM CONFIDENT THE PEOPLE OF SARAWAK DO NOT WANT 46 BUT PREFER 45 OR 47,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO PARTI SEMANGAT 46 WHICH HAS ENTERED INTO AN ELECTION PACT WITH SEVERAL OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES TO FORM THE ANGKATAN PERPADUAN UMMAH (APU) IN THE HOPE OF OUSTING THE BN GOVERNMENT.

NOTING THAT SARAWAK HAD MANY BUDDING SPORTS TALENTS, HE CALLED ON YOUTH AND SPORTS, MINISTER DATUK NAJIB TUN RAZAK, WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM, TO CONSIDER THE STATE'S ATHLETES IN FUTURE GAMES, INCLUDING THE ASIAN GAMES IN BEIJING.

HE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR SPARING THE COUNTRY FROM TERRIBLE NATURAL DISASTERS LIKE EARTHQUAKES OR RACIAL RIOTS, AND TO JOIN HANDS TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA