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Mahathir-Unity

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KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today Malaysia's policies and principles have proven successful in overcoming the country's multi-racial problems and imbalances.

Foreigners might claim to know more about the country's problems and ways to solve them but the truth was they did not know because problems in their own countries remained unresolved, he added.

+We know our problems better, + he said when opening the National Unity Advisory Panel meeting at Carcosa Seri Negara, here.

He called on the people not to be influenced by allegations by foreigners that +what we are doing will be a failure. +

What was important for all Malaysian to subdue emotions and to be moderate and right-thinking in solving problems, he said. -- more

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it took time to forge unity. The passing of one generation led to another where relations between the various communities in the country grew ever closer and stronger.

This could not be found in other countries where the situation in some of them were so bad although their people was only made up of one race, he added.

He said that unity formed the main pre-condition in efforts to turn Malaysia into a developed country by the year 2020.

+Without unity and harmony among the races, we will not be able to promote the political, social and economical environment necessary to lift the nation to a higher plane of development, + he added. -- more

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the unity desired for the country was one where its multi-racial and multi-religious people possess a feeling of oneness and shared a common identity as citizens of Malaysia, Malaysia.

The unity being forged was also aimed at creating a harmonious and peaceful community where the people understood and respected one another for their common good, he added.

He also said the unity sought must be one founded on a spirit of undivided loyalty and patriotism to the country.

The creation of a Malaysian race that was united included other ingredients like striving for a matured democratic political system which protected the rights and interests of the individual as much as those of the community, he added. -- more

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Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government would continue to enhance efforts to bring about a more homogenous community in terms of the socio-economic standing among races and regions.

He also said unity did not mean that the culture, religion and languages and dialects of the various races would be discarded. "What is important is we have one national language and one culture that is special to the people and nation of Malaysia," he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that the National Unity Advisory Panel, which held its first meeting today, was formed to recommend ways of further improving unity among the people.

The panel is headed by the Minister of Unity and Community Development, Datuk Napsiah Omar.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir later presented certificates to the 33 members of the panel. -- Bernama

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