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OPP2-reaction

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident that the majority of the people will accept the Second Outline Perspective Plan (OPP2) which he said will be implemented through the democratic process.

He said this confidence was based on the unanimous support of the Barisan Nasional elected representatives during discussions on the policy, which outlines the development agenda for the country for the next 10 years.

He would not be surprised if the opposition disagreed with the policy as there were always people, especially those from the opposition parties, who did not agree with whatever the government did, he told reporters after tabling the motion on the OPP2 at the Dewan Rakyat.

He said the opposition was given the opportunity to help draft the policy through the setting up of the National Economic Consultative Council (NECC) but when their views were not accepted during the discussions, they withdrew from the NECC.

This showed their ignorance of the democratic process where the majority ruled, he said. -- more

♥17/06/21-24MST

R GE 17-06 00155 EG559

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OPP2-reaction 2 Kuala Lumpur

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said the OPP2 was more structured, salient and complete compared with the New Economic Policy (NEP).

He said the NEP was formulated +hastily+ following the May 13 incident in 1969 and was not debated in Parliament, unlike the NDP which would be debated.

Encik Ghafar said the qualitative rather than quantitative aspects of Bumiputera participation in the ekonomi under the OPP2 would be more important for although they made little profits their niche in the sector would be on longer-term basis.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the OPP2 took into consideration the interests of all races and the people should strive to fulfil its development aims.

Its also gave priority to industrial development, the increase of high-technolofy fields and a fair distribution of the nation's economic pie, he added. -- more

♥17/06/21-59MST

R GE 17-06 00168 EG560

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OPP2-reaction 3 Kuala Lumpur

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a member of the NECC, said the OPP2 contained some of the ideas forwarded by the NECC.

He said he was confident that the plan, when implemented, would bring the country rapid and quality development.

Works Minister Datuk Leo Moggie, who is also president of the Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS), said the OPP2 recognised the status of the Bumiputera minorities in Sarawak and he hoped efforts would continue to improve their lot.

Primary Industries Minister and Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the plan would generate growth and towards this end, the cooperation of all the people was needed.

Transport Minister and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the main thrust of the OPP2 would be to maintain the nation's momentum of growth as only with continued growth could there be equitable sharing among the people. -- more

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OPP2-reaction 4 Kuala Lumpur

Health Minister and MCA deputy president Datuk Lee Kim Sai said the MCA fully supported the plan and would work towards achieving its goals.

MIC President Datuk Seri S.Samy Vellu said that through the OPP2, the Indian community would be able to improve their standing with the aid of the plan's various development programmes.

+The Indian community is confident that the government would make available a wide scope of opportunities to improve their living standard,+ said the MIC president.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid said the OPP2 was a development policy which would enhance national unity among the various races in the country.

+This is where the NDP is different from the NEP which did not place much emphasis on inter-racial cooperation in national development,+ he said.

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♥17/06/22-03MST

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R GE 17-06 00174 EG562

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OPP2-reaction 5 Kuala Lumpur

DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang when asked to comment on the OPP2, said he regretted that the motion on the plan was tabled in the Dewan Rakyat before Members of Parliament (MPs) and the public had a chance to examine it.

+The government should have allowed the MPs to study the plan to obtain feedback from the public,+ he said.

Parti Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said he did not support the OPP2 as he claimed it was only geared for certain groups particularly businessmen.

He said with the setting aside of the Bumiputera quota in the economic sector it was clear the OPP2 would not help Bumiputera economic development.

Parti Bersatu Sabah deputy president Datuk Benard Dompok said he was satisfied with the plan and the time had come for the government to address the need of Bumiputeras in Sabah and Sarawak who were not as prosperous as their counterparts in the peninsula. -- more

♥17/06/22-06MST

CNS9162

R GE 17-06 00145 EG563

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OPP2-reaction 6 Kuala Lumpur

PAS deputy president Haji Hadi Awang refused to comment on the OPP2, saying he would debate the matter in the Dewan Rakyat tomorrow.

Chairman of the Federal Territory branch of the Malay Chambers of Commerce and Industry Moehamad Izat Emir said Bumiputeras should seize the various opportunities under the OPP2 to become businessmen and industrialists.

+What is important is that the Bumiputeras show full economic participation,+ he said.

The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) described the OPP2 as well-planned, but pointed out that it would be ineffective without a special body to monitor its implementation.

In arguing for the need for such a body to be set up, its president, Encik Zainal Rampak, said +We should not repeat the same mistake we made under the NEP,+ -- more

CNS9163

R GE 17-06 00104 EG564

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OPP2-reaction 7 Kuala Lumpur

The Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (Fomca) said it supported the OPP2 and hoped the people would accept it towards realising the Vision 2020.

Its president Encik Hamdan Adnan said the government, in implementing the OPP2, should not ignore environmental concerns.

Malaysian Labour Organisation (MLO) secretary-general K. Sanmugam said the organisation welcomed the strong emphasis on human resources development given under the plan.

+It is a well-balanced plan which is vital in our efforts to become a fully developed nation by the year 2020,+ he said. -- Bernama

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