

CNS9538

R PE 28-07 00186 EA981

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Mahathir - MCA

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(P)
KUALA LUMPUR, July 28, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised the MCA against adopting what he said was the communal style of politics of the DAP of showing it championed the cause of the Chinese.

The Prime Minister said there were times when the MCA felt threatened by the DAP, so much so that some MCA members tried to be more chauvinistic than the opposition party.

+They (these certain MCA members) feel that by showing they gave greater attention to the Chinese community than the DAP, they can defeat the DAP,+ he said when opening the MCA general assembly at Wisma MCA here.

+This stand is not in line with the concept of the Barisan Nasional (BN), and at one stage almost shattered the Umno-MCA pact which formed the pillar of the BN,+ said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman.

However, he said, the MCA leadership had succeeded in checking the DAP style of approach and sentiments. -- more

♥28/07/12-40MST

CNS9543

R PE 28-07 00158 EA982

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Mahathir - MCA 2 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the MCA should not be afraid that it would be criticised by the Chinese for purportedly not having championed their cause because Malay/Chinese and Umno/MCA cooperation benefited the Chinese community more than the Malay/Chinese controversy promoted by the DAP.

+There is no benefit for the Chinese in a country where they face tension with the Bumiputeras,+ he said.

He said the DAP now felt threatened because Malay/Chinese and Umno/MCA cooperation had been effective in bringing about success for the MCA.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that politically the support of Malay voters was still vital for non-Malay parties in the BN despite some Malays going for DAP-PAS cooperation.

He also said that there was evidence that PAS supporters voted for the DAP in the last general election, in October last year. -- more

♥28/07/13-01MST

R PE 28-07 00209 EA983

aae t-be

Mahathir - MCA 3 Kuala Lumpur

+If the Malays assume that the MCA is too chauvinistic, it will be difficult for the MCA candidates to get their votes,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said the Umno/MCA and BN strategy of cooperation was better for stability, peace and economic development than the style of chauvinism of the DAP or PAS in fighting for the future of the Chinese or the Malays.

He asked what more the DAP could offer than the MCA when the DAP cooperated with Parti Semangat 46 and PAS.

+If the DAP wins, the only thing the Chinese community can get is Lim Kit Siang (DAP secretary-general) as the Chief Minister of Pulau Pinang and not Dr Koh Tsu Koon (the present chief minister from the Gerakan),+ he said.

+The prime minister and menteri besar will also be Malays -- Malays from Semangat 46 or PAS.

+There is nothing the DAP can do for the Chinese which cannot be achieved by the MCA and Gerakan.

+The Malaysian Chinese community should be aware of this. Even as an opposition party, there is nothing that the DAP can do,+ he said. -- more

♥28/07/13-25MST

R PE 28-07 00230 EA985

aae tbe

Mahathir - MCA 4 Kuala Lumpur

Describing the DAP struggle as having made a 180 degree turn, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the DAP was not only prepared to cooperate and accept the administration of Semangat 46 if they formed the government but was also prepared to cooperate with PAS which had claimed it wanted to establish a PAS style of Islamic administration.

He also said that the DAP did not dare reject totally the National Development Policy (NDP) because this would be opposed by its allies, Semangat 46 and PAS.

+The NDP, in principle, cannot be turned into a political issue to criticise the MCA. What was done by the DAP can be described as nit-picking, a characteristic of the DAP,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said the MCA must maintain its cooperation with Umno and other BN component parties because this would make Malaysia politically more stable and encourage economic growth.

Leaders of BN component parties present at the opening ceremony included Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Parti Bansa Dayak Sarawak (PBDS) President Datuk Leo Moggie, MIC Deputy President Datuk S. Subramaniam, Umno Secretary General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and Pulau Pinang Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

Former MCA President Tan Sri Lee San Choon was also present. -- Bernama