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MAHATHIR: MALAYSIA'S UNITY FORMULA HAS PROVED TO BE A SUCCESS

Mahathir - Sabah (pix)

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KOTA KINABALU, Sept 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia's formula to unite the various communities has proved to be very successful and has ensured the country's stability and progress.

Even at the time of independence Malaysia was given all kinds of advice and proposals and +if we had followed such advice and accepted the suggestions it is unlikely Malaysia will be as peaceful and progressive as it is now,+ he said.

This was evident in certain countries where racialism had caused strong nations to be divided, he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a dinner hosted jointly by the Sabah Bumiputera Chamber of Commerce and the Sabah Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: +Malaysians should realise that our country is one of the few countries with a multi-racial population that is living in peace and in close co-operation with one another.+

He said the existing good relations and close co-operation among the various communities should be preserved and expanded to cover all levels of society.

+We can then together enjoy progress and our respective rights,+ he said. -- more

♥11/09/22-20MST

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Mahathir - Sabah 2 Kota Kinabalu

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was happy to see that the Bumiputera and Chinese Chambers of Commerce in Sabah were closely co-operating as was evident in the joint function they had organised tonight.

+This is the type of co-operation we want. Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras helping each other and together enjoying progress and prosperity,+ he said.

He said the Federal Government would be happy if many Malaysians became rich.

+We are not like certain countries which did not want their people to be rich.+

+We want people to be well-off so that they can pay tax and there will be no difficulty in financing development,+ he said.

However riches should be obtained through the correct way and those who were rich should discharge their obligation to pay tax.

+The Government will have to act according to the law if riches are obtained through incorrect ways and if the rich did not want to pay tax,+ he added. -- more

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Mahathir - Sabah 3 Kota Kinabalu

Present at the dinner were Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan and his wife Datin Genevieve, Sabah Umno Deputy head Tun Datu Haji Mustapha bin Datu Harun, other Sabah Barisan Nasional leaders and Federal Minister for National Unity and Social Development Datuk Napsiah Omdr.

Earlier, the President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Datuk MohamadSari OKK Nuar, in his speech said although Sabah was far from Kuala Lumpur, its people always felt the closeness between the two places and always supported the vision to make Malaysia a developed nation in 30 years.

The Prime Minister, who arrived here this evening, will attend a people's gathering at Kota Belud, about 85 km from here tomorrow.

He will also unveil a plaque to commemorate UMNO's first victory in the state and receive the title +Wira Nusa Raya+ in recognition of his services to the state.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir will leave for Miri , Sarawak in the afternoon.

-- Bernama