

CNS2929

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MAHATHIR: STEER CLEAR OF RACIAL SENTIMENTS

Mahathir sentiments

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MIRI, Sept 12 (Bernama) Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised groups engaged in the Sarawak state election to refrain from playing up racial sentiments because it can lead to dire consequences.

+Racial politics will only instigate the people and cause one race to hate another, and eventually spark off racial riots,+ the Prime Minister said.

This would result in suffering and destruction of political stability and the national economy, he said when addressing about 2,000 State Barisan Nasional (BN) members and supporters who had greeted him at the Miri airport here on his arrival from Sabah for a two day visit to Sarawak.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir referred to the +May 13+ racial riots of 1969 when hundreds of people were killed to illustrate the danger of indulging in racial politics.

He said the people should instead work with the BN government in developing the state through politics of development. more

♥12/09/20 21MST

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Mahathir sentiments 2 Miri

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the success Malaysia had achieved in securing political stability, a sound economy and racial harmony outclassed that in many other countries, including developed nations.

This had caused envy among certain groups in these countries which went to the extent of twisting the facts through the mass media, he added.

The Malaysian success had resulted in a 10 per cent economic growth rate last year compared with only a two per cent growth rate in the European Community (EC) countries, he said.

+This year, we expect the growth rate to drop by two per cent, that is, to eight per cent, but it will still be higher than that achieved in the EC countries,+ he said.

+We must ensure that the growth rate does not fall below seven per cent so that the per capita income which is now US\$2,300 would rise to US\$17,000,+ he said, adding that this could be achieved if efforts were concentrated on politics of development. more

♥12/09/20 36MST

CNS2951

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Mahathir sentiments 3 Miri

Therefore, he said, the multiracial population should retain the government which had proven its ability and commitment to serve them.

The government in Sarawak also needed continuity to ensure the success of development projects which were in accordance with federal government policies and had the full backing of the federal government, he added.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the BN government was not greedy for power and instead practised a power sharing concept because it wanted all the people, including the minority races, to enjoy the fruits of development.

+We do not want an extremist government which does not want to share power with the other races,+ he said.

He was confident that the people of Sarawak would reject the extremist groups and give a fresh mandate to the government led by Chief Minister Tan Sri Haji Taib Mahmud which had proven its commitment and ability to serve all the races. more

♥12/09/21 00MST

CNS2954

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Mahathir sentiments 4 (last) Miri

Earlier, Tan Sri Taib said the state BN government would utilise the state's resources, including timber, for its industrialisation programme to boost the economy of all races so that they became respected Malaysians.

+This will be implemented through development politics and in line with national policies and Vision 2020,+ he said.

On arrival, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, were accorded a red carpet welcome complete with traditional dance performances by the various ethnic groups in the state.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Tan Sri Haji Taib, then left by helicopter for Bekenu, 48km from here, to officiate the tarring of Jalan Bekenu.

Tonight, the Prime Minister will attend an all community dinner at the community hall here before leaving for Kuching tomorrow morning.

He will also visit Betong before returning to Kuala Lumpur. Bernama

♥12/09/21 00MST