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MAHATHIR PREDICTS REVIVAL OF SABAH UNDER BARISAN NASIONAL RULE

Mahathir-revival

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KOTA KINABALU, May 1 (Bernama) -- Sabah will experience a revival more intensive than it has ever experienced under Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) if Barisan Nasional (BN) rules the state, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said here today.

It saddened him to see the state's development and economy lagging behind while PBS continued to exploit negative political issues in its efforts to hang on to power, he added.

For as long as PBS ruled, it would continue to practise racial politics with a narrow vision simply to enable it to remain in power to the exclusion of development, he said here when opening the inaugural meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), a BN component in Sabah.

Dr Mahathir said only BN could save Sabah from its economic decline and ensure that the interests of all its people were looked after.

+The BN concept is the best political system for Malaysia on which world attention is being focussed. As such, all people must give their support to maintain the system,+ he added. -- more

▼01/05/12-22MST

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Mahathir-revival 2 Kota Kinabalu

He continued: +We can develop Malaysia faster than other countries with the political stability and harmony of BN.

+I believe, one day, Malaysia will be able to have a (political) party of Malaysian character that is not racially-based. But, we have yet to reach that stage... for the time being, the BN system is the best.+

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said Malays could hold the reigns of government of the country if they wished with the majority of seats they held in Parliament.

He added: +But, Umno is not power-hungry. It gives priority to co-operation with the other communities to rule the country together. The proof of this can be seen everywhere.

+It is different with PBS the so-called party of various communities but the power lies in the hands of one community or family only.+

As such, he called on the Chinese community in Sabah to give its undivided support to LDP and other BN component parties in efforts to recapture Sabah in the next election. -- more

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Mahathir-revival 3 Kota Kinabalu

He reminded the people not to be taken in by the tactics of PBS and DAP which purportedly wanted to safeguard the interests of the Chinese when in fact they were splitting the community.

He said: +BN's history clearly proves that there has been no suppression of the Chinese.

+The Chinese in Peninsular Malaysia lead a far more luxurious life than before because there is no suppression. We have gradually opened opportunities for everyone.

+Recently, Amanah Saham MARA (ASM) was opened to all. This shows that we do not want everything for bumiputeras. When bumiputeras are capable, strong, we are prepared to give special consideration to other communities too.+

Dr Mahathir also reminded the people that the stability and peace enjoyed by Malaysia was the result of the BN concept which gave equal rights to all communities either in participation in government or development. -- more

▼01/05/12-57MST

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Mahathir-revival 4 (last) Kota Kinabalu

+We adopt a liberal attitude, all communities are represented. There are differences of views but not to the extent of enmity. We discuss together, all feel relieved and not threatened,+ he said.

Present at the opening were leaders of BN component parties, including Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, who is Minister of Primary Industries, Umno Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat who is Information Minister and Sabah Umno Liaison deputy head Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun.

Apart from LDP, formed in 1989, BN component parties in Sabah are Umno, Usno, MCA and Parti Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (AKAR). -- Bernama

▼01/05/12-58MST