

aae

BN SOLIDARITY IS THE BASIS FOR NATION'S SUCCESS, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir - BN

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the country has experienced success and prosperity because of the tolerance and solidarity among component parties of the Barisan Nasional.

+Loyalty and mutual trust within the BN have brought the country to a level of development in which we can take just pride,+ he said at a dinner organised by the Government Backbenchers Club here.

Despite the various allegations and claims made against BN members such as they were mere +yes man+ to the leadership, trust and support for the leadership had prevailed making it possible for the country to attain success beyond expectations, Dr Mahathir, who is also BN Chairman said.

The political system practised by the BN had met with opposition and criticism from foreign countries which claimed that it would not succeed in a multi-racial and multi-religious country such as Malaysia.

+But our system in fact is good and effective to the extent that we have succeeded,+ he said.

He said allegations by certain groups and individuals such as Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang that in the BN no one had the courage and dared to oppose the views of the Prime Minister were baseless. -- more

▼09/05/00-44MST

U GE 09-05 00155 EB718

aae

Mahathir - BN 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said generally BN members agreed with the decision made but many of his views had been shot down by Cabinet members and this was not known outside.

He said Malaysians should be proud that many of the decisions made by the BN, which were strongly opposed and criticised initially such as the Look East Policy, Privatisation Concept, Malaysia Incorporated and heavy industries, had not only proved to be a success but had served as an example to other countries including the developed ones.

He also said critics who had claimed that Malaysia's administrative system which recognised all races would not succeed had proved to be wrong.

+We faced racial riots in 1969 and we realise the importance of unity and racial sensitivity .. we recognise all races and we now live peacefully,+ he said. -- more

▼09/05/00-58MST

CNS6612  
U GE 09-05 00355 EB719  
aae

Mahathir - BN 3 Kuala Lumpur

Deputy Prime Minister and BN Secretary-General Ghafar Baba in his speech said leaders of every nation faced problems and Dr Mahathir was no exception having gone through several tribulations including the economic recession of the 80s, the 1983 Constitutional crisis and the 1987 Umno leadership election tussle which resulted in Umno being ruled an unlawful party by the courts.

He said the various problems were handled by Dr Mahathir in a sensible and rational manner reflecting his inherent leadership qualities which enabled him to steer the country towards greater heights.

He said Malaysia was now not only a country respected by other nations in the world but also a nation which was now in a position to assist other developing countries.

Ghafar also took the opportunity to wish the Prime Minister a pleasant holiday. Dr Mahathir will be on leave for three weeks beginning Monday prior to attending the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro next month.

Malaysian Parliament Backbenchers Club chairman Shahidan Kassim in his speech said the success of the Barisan Nasional (BN) in winning several by-elections for parliamentary and state seats since the last general elections proved that the BN had the strong support of the people. -- more

Mahathir- BN 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He pointed out that while the hierarchies of opposition parties were collapsing, the leadership of the BN was enjoying increasing support among former opposition party members.

He said under the leadership of the BN, the country had progressed by leaps and bounds and even international bodies such as the World Bank and agencies of the United Nations had acknowledged that Malaysia was economically well-developed and had a bright future.

Among those present at the dinner held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) were the Prime Minister's wife Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, the President of the Dewan Negara, the Speakers of the Dewan Rakyat and the state legislative assemblies, cabinet ministers, Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers. -- Bernama

▼09/05/01-07MST