

UPE05-12 00187 EA725

aae tbe

Mahathir-MIC

MALAYSIA GIVES DUE CONSIDERATION TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Malaysia is one of the world's democratic country which gives due consideration to social justice for its people of various races.

He said through the practice of fairness to its various races, Malaysia had succeeded not only in uniting the people but had also been able to achieve political stability which was needed to secure robust economic growth.

+By safeguarding social justice, no race would feel alienated or obstructed from attaining success.. all races were free to seize the business opportunities and acquire wealth through proper means,+ he said when opening the MIC general assembly here.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were fortunate because the country's economic growth rate had been encouraging over the past years though the world economy had, been sluggish.

+Today, Malaysia's economic growth was the most, rapid in this region.. this is the reason why the recent budget presented generally benefited the people,+ he said. -- more

▼05/12/15-16MST

CNS5596

U PE 05-12 00175 EA732

aae tbe

Mahathir-MIC 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said Malaysia's successful management of the economy which had impressed many world economic experts and many countries, especially the developing ones, was a major accomplishment of the Barisan Nasional (BN) government.

The main factors that would ensure steady economic growth for the country were peace and political stability and these values should be preserved, he said.

He said, the government, acknowledged that poverty still existed in Malaysia but this was odd as there were many job openings, and the country was forced to engage foreign workers to sustain the economic growth.

+Political parties should play their role persuading Malaysians to take up the jobs and work hard. In this way, the aim of the BN government to eradicate poverty would be realised,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government would take steps to determine that no community would be left behind economically in it.; efforts to make Malaysia a developed nation. -- more

▼05/12/16-10MST

CNS5598

U PE 05-12 00181 Eh733

aae tbe

Mahathir-MIC 3 Kuala Lumpur

+However, this did not mean that every citizen' would 'earn unequal income. This situation was impossible to reach because the capability and ability of each one of us was different,+ he said.

The equality in income among individuals as espoused by the socialist and communist systems was impossible to achieve, making all parties poor.

+The government is confident that by providing more social services, such as health care and education, and building infrastructure, like roads, electricity and water supply, the effort in narrowing the income gap among the ethnic groups can be fulfilled,+ he said.

The government, he said, would continue to provide more jobs and business opportunities to enhance the people's standard of living and was confident that this would reduce the poverty level and narrow the income gap among the ethnic races because the economy was able to grow.

+This would make the economic pie bigger and it could, be fairly distributed among the various,, races,+ he said. -- more

▼05/12/16-17MST

CNS5602

U PE 05-12 00184 Eh734

aae tbe

Mahathir-MIC 4 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir hoped that no race in the country would adopt the dependent syndrome though the government gave aid' as this would weaken the race and Malaysians in general.

+The government 's policy and approach proved that it is able to develop the country but by itself, it will not bring success. No less important is the people's support and will to succeed. ..herein is the role of the parties, like the MIC, which represents the Indian community,+ he said.

The, Prime Minister said the future of the Indian community in this country would be secure under the BN because only it would ensure that their interests were not neglected.

The people should steer clear of political extremism because the BN's success in ensuring that all the various races lived in harmony and unity was due to moderate attitude, of its leaders and party members.

+We must reject and oppose, any form of political extremism:.. any form. of extremism would hamper national. stability and prosperity,+ he added. -- more

▼05/12/16-25MST

CNS5607

U YE 05-12 001.69 EA735

aae tbe

Mahathir-MIC 5 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said that Malaysian Indians should continue to be united under the BN administration, otherwise, they would stand to lose.

+Today, though the Indian population is small compared with the bumiputras, they are heard loud and clear and the party is considered an equal partner in the BN,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said the MIC had played a vital role in 'safeguarding Indian rights and hoped that the community would continue to support the party.

The Prime Minister said he was happy to note the calm mood in the party and said that this was a good development for the MIC and the Indian community.

+I am glad to see the MIC is now stronger and stable. The race for the party president's post does not affect party unity but has made the members more united,+ he said.

More than 1,800 MIC delegates attended the two-day assembly. -- Bernama

▼05/12/16-32MST