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EASIER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IF SAME PARTY RULES AT STATE AND FEDERAL

Mahathir-PBB

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KUCHING, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it would be easier to resolve problems if the same party ruled at state and Federal levels.

It could not be denied, however, that sometimes feelings of dissatisfaction might arise between the Federal and state governments over certain matters, he added.

+But this does not mean it cannot be overcome amicably or through negotiations, he said when opening the general assembly of the Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB) at the Riverside Majestic Hotel here.

Friction in relations between the Federal and state governments would not benefit anyone, said Dr Mahathir who is Barisan Nasional chairman.

Referring to the rapid development in Sarawak, he said the success and progress of the state was a result of the BN government administration which always gave priority to the welfare of the people. -- more

♥24/08/17-47MST

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Reptn (correcting slug)

Mahathir-PBB 2 Kuching

Dr Mahathir said he was happy to see good relations prevailing between the Sarawak Government under the leadership of Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who is PBB President, and the Federal Government.

+This is good for the people in Sarawak because through such good relations the Federal Government's programmes and projects for the people in the state can be implemented well without any disruption like that in Kelantan recently, he added.

He said the spirit of friendship and collaboration among Sarawak Barisan Nasional component parties made it easier for the state government to undertake development without fear of political pressure and conflicts.

The other two component parties of the Sarawak BN are the Sarawak United Peoples Party (SUPP) and the Sarawak National Party (SNAP).

Dr Mahathir said the BN's power-sharing concept had prevented racial strife as all problems could be resolved rationally through negotiations within the party. -- more

♥24/08/17-57MST

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Reptn (correcting slug)  
Mahathir-PRB 3 Kuching

He added: +Open or outright opposition to overcome a particular problem is not the Barisan way or culture.

+Public debate will not resolve any problem or achieve anything as this will often lead to feelings which cannot be controlled.+

This power sharing tradition should be maintained so that national politics would be stable and the people would continue to live in peace and security, he said and called on the people to be alert to attempts to disrupt national stability and peace.

+There are signs that many are envious of the country's success and progress in the economic field particularly in industrialisation and our championing of matters pertaining to trade, environment, human rights, democracy and the interests of the countries of the South at international forums,+ he added.

Dr Mahathir said non-governmental bodies, international trade union federations and local and foreign associations had tried to influence countries which had good relations with Malaysia to keep away from the country and not to buy Malaysia's exports. -- more

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▼24/08/17-58MST

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Mahathir-PBB 4 Xuching

Apart from the issue of Sarawak's Penans, Dr Mahathir said issues such as human rights, freedom to resort to industrial action, the question of the environment, logging and democracy had been used as the basis to oppose Malaysia.

He said Malaysia's efforts to set up the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) continued to be opposed by groups which did not want to see Malaysia become a developed nation with the people enjoying a standard of living on par with them.

He added that people who say that Sarawak would be left behind by the year 2020 were wrong because he believed that the people in the state had the required capacity and sources of wealth to attain the objectives of the vision.

Sarawak could lead other states in the country if the people in the state worked harder and gave their support to the state government which had been spending more than \$1 billion every year over several years to develop the state. -- more

♥24/08/17-59MST

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Mahathir-PBB 5 (last) Kuching

+In fact from several aspects, this state is more advanced than other states in the peninsula such as in the fields of petro-chemicals, tourism and forestry,+ he said.

Saying that the Sarawak Government had given equal attention to all irrespective of race or area in its development programmes, Dr Mahathir said the Penan community which had been instigated to oppose change had also achieved development no different from other communities.

He added: +That which can obstruct development and fair distribution of wealth is the view spread by foreigners that traditional life in the jungle is much better than modern living.

+They wish to see Sarawak remain in the Stone Age so that the various races in the state will be museum pieces from the archaeological age and be the subject of study for their anthropology thesis.

+If the people in Sarawak remain in this situation, Sarawak will continue to be left behind and cannot help the country as a whole achieve developed status and compete with western nations. +

Dr Mahathir said the people in Sarawak who supported the views of foreigners on this matter were only betraying their community and the nation. -- Bernama