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BN'S MODERATE POLICY HELPS MAINTAIN STABILITY

Mahathir 1' - liberal

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PULAU PINANG, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- The policy of moderation adopted by component members of the Barisan Nasional (BN) has succeeded in maintaining national stability and harmony, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the policy was in line with the aspirations of the people of the various communities.

The people were able to co-operate with each other in all fields, including politics, because all the races were moderate in their attitudes and did not like to confront each other when faced with any problem, he said when addressing BM leaders and members at Dewan Seri Pinang here.

He said that although each community demanded its rights, this did not pose a problem because they were not extreme and the moderate attitude of the people had made co-operation easy.

In other countries, for example in Yugoslavia, when the people of various races adopted racialist attitudes against each other, trouble broke out and this did not benefit anyone, he said. -- more

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Mahathir - liberal 2 Pulau Pinang

He said that though there might be occasions when a community raised dissatisfaction, the situation could be resolved through the BN channel by adopting the moderate approach.

Dr Mahathir said BN members should always realise this fact and put aside anything based purely on sentiments to maintain the present stability.

He said PAS leaders and supporters were fanatical in their attitudes as the party itself was based on sentiments and not on reality.

+We do not want RN component parties to follow the attitudes of PAS leader; and supporters, + he said, adding that PAS members supported the party based on sentiments created by their leaders.

He also said that the New Economic Policy (NEP) was one of the factors which had brought blessings to the nation and enabled it to progress rapidly in development. -- more

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Mahathir - liberal 3 (last) Pulau Pinang

+The NEP was a fair policy as all sectors had benefited from it ... it has achieved the target- which ensures that every community can benefit from the nation's economic wealth,+ he said.

The result of the NEP had prevented a recurrence of racial conflicts such as the May 13, 1969 incident because now all the communities were able to en joy the economic cake.

He said any quarter which was dissatisfied with the NEP should think carefully because the implementation of the NEP had proved that it was the factor that saved the nation and ensured its stability and harmony.

Dr Mahathir said the success of the NEP had brought about the participation of every community in the economic activities of the nation, and avoided racial conflicts as the economic sector was no longer controlled by any particular community.

Present at the meeting were Chief Minister Dr Koh Tsu Koon and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Tonight, the Prime Minister attended a dinner with heads of department and community leaders at the Bukit Jambul Country Club. -- Bernama

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