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Mahathir-festival

BN ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION OF ALL RACES IN ADMINISTRATION

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KOTA KINABALU, May 30 (Bernama) -- <sup>93</sup> Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Barisan Nasional (BN) system encourages participation of all communities regardless of culture and religion in the determination of the nation's course.

The prime minister said the participation of all communities in the administration of the country was the basis of the BN government.

"The BN government does not emphasise any one community. The BN is an effective system which creates the feeling that everyone has a role in the country," he said when launching the "Pesta Kaamatan" (harvest festival) organised by the Special Committee of the Sabah Umno Kadazan, Dusun and Murut, at the Foo Chow Association hall here.

The festival is held at the end of May to signal the end of the harvest season.

Dr Mahathir said the participation and cooperation of all communities in the BN had helped to make Malaysia peaceful and progressive, so much so that it has gained international recognition.

He said the government gave equal consideration to all the communities.

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MOK MGN

▼30/05/17-07MST

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.. Mahathir-festival 2 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said the federal Cabinet had representatives from the various ethnic communities in the country except the small communities.

He said foreigners asked how Malaysians of various communities were able to live together, and his reply was that the country had a system of administration under which all communities could play their roles.

"We give equal treatment. Only in Sabah, unfortunately, the people have wrongly elected the PBS (Parti Bersatu Sabah) which is communal and purportedly champions Sabah for Sabahans," he said.

He said the PBS leaders chose to isolate themselves from the BN so that no one would notice their wrongdoing.

"They can get away with cheating. They would prefer if possible to be separated from the federal government and administer Sabah on their own," he said.

The prime minister said community festivals such as the Pesta Kaamatan in Sabah could foster unity among the communities in Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula. -- more

JS MOK MGN

▼30/05/17-47MST

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Mahathir-festival 3 Kota Kinabalu

He also said that tolerance and unity among the people in different localities encouraged one community to help another in need.

"That is why when Sabah became a part of Malaysia, it received assistance from the rest of the country. If Sabah is short of food, we will definitely bring supplies from the other states," he said.

Although the Pesta Kaamatan was held particularly for the Kadazan, Dusun and Murut communities, it should be celebrated with the other communities, he said.

"This has become a tradition in Malaysia. Communities will join in the celebrations of any festival. We encourage the people to be tolerant with one another though they have varying ways of life," he said.

He said that though "Hari Raya Aidiladha" would be observed by Muslims tomorrow, it did not mean that other communities could not call on Muslims.

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Mahathir-festival 4 (last) Kota Kinabalu

He said the solidarity shown at any festival would create friendship and integration of the people in Sabah, Sarawak and the peninsula.

The prime minister then harvested some padi and beat a gong to launch the festival. A cultural show of the various communities in Sabah and a "Unduk Ngadau" (beauty contest) were held.

Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali was present.

This morning, Chief Minister Datuk Joseph Pairin Kitingan launched the state-level harvest festival at the Kadazan Dusun Cultural Association hall in Penampang near here.

In his speech, Pairin said the harvest festival was no longer confined to the Kadazan and Dusun but celebrated by all communities in Sabah. --

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