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Mahathir - economy

SABAH ECONOMIC GROWTH LOWER THAN IN OTHER STATES, MAHATHIR

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KOTA KINABALU, Feb 1<sup>94</sup> (Bernama) - Sabah is one of the states with the lowest economic growth in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

He said the state only achieved four per cent economic growth while the country as a whole attained eight to nine per cent growth in recent years.

States like Johor, Melaka and Kedah were able to do better than the national average, Dr Mahathir said.

"The weak economic growth in Sabah is due to incorrect politics, 'personal quarrel' in its functioning and not centered on methods to bring progress to the country as a whole," he said at a dinner hosted in his honour by the Sabah Bumiputera Chamber of Commerce and the United Chinese Chamber of Commerce here.

He said only close co-operation with the Federal Government could assist Sabah to progress and be on par with other states. -- more

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Mahathir - economy 2 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said the most important factor in enhancing the state's economic growth was stability which could only be attained via close cooperation with the Federal Government.

He said no one would want to invest in a country which had no political stability.

He said the "Sabah for Sabahans" sentiments were raised to arouse the local people's anger and cover up weaknesses in the administration.

"Sabahans not only had rights over their own state but also over the country of Malaysia and hatred towards the Federal Government would not bring any profit," he said.

He said the Federal Government had no bad intentions against the people in Sabah but only wanted to see it progress and have political stability.

Dr Mahathir acknowledged that in the past the Chinese community in Sabah were not satisfied with the Barisan Nasional Government and this had caused them to withdraw their support for the government.

However now they realised that the government which they had elected and had been given the mandate for nearly nine years to raise the state's economic growth had not been able to do so.

In the case of the Bumiputera communities it was the Federal Government which had helped them much with many Bumiputeras now being successful in the economic field.

Among the 500 people present were Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai, senior Federal Government officers and leaders of BN component parties.

Dr Mahathir and his delegation arrived here yesterday for a two-day visit. Later today he would meet heads of Federal Departments and agencies and leaders of Sabah BN component parties before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

-- Bernama

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