

CNS7302

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Mahathir-slogan

MAHATHIR ASKS SABAH PEOPLE TO GIVE UP PAROCHIALISM

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KOTA KINABALU, April 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹⁴ (Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad) today asked the people of Sabah to discard parochialism and regard themselves as Malaysians on equal terms with people in the other states.

"We should forget where we come from. When we are in the international arena, we are Malaysians and we are friends of all the people in the country, regardless of where we come from," he told a gathering at Wisma Muis, here. The event was telecast live over TV.

Dr Mahathir said the spirit of solidarity was important for the people to discard any feeling of alienation, and at the same time prevent anyone from using that sentiment for personal gain.

He said there were no differences among the people in the country. Instead, he added, everyone enjoyed the same rights, including in holding top posts, regardless of their state of origin, community or religion.

"There is nothing to stop anyone who is eligible from becoming a minister or the prime minister. A person from Sabah can also be the prime minister but that person must be the prime minister of Malaysia, not the prime minister of Sabah in Malaysia.

"I am not the prime minister of Kedah in Malaysia," he said. -- more
MOK JS MGN

▼02/04/19-11MST

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Mahathir-slogan 2 Kota Kinabalu

"Let there be no one who talks of Sabah for the Sabahans and then takes everything for his own (interests)," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional (BN) had tried to give an alternative to the people of Sabah in the last state election but had a trying time dislodging the slogan "Sabah for Sabahans" which had been embedded in the people.

"Wherever they (Parti Bersatu Sabah leaders) went, they used the slogan. Unfortunately, many were influenced. As a result, the people of Sabah not only did not enjoy development but also saw their standard of living deteriorate.

"They believed that Sabahans meant all the people of Sabah. Unfortunately, for leaders of that government, Sabahans meant they themselves and not the people of Sabah in general," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the people of Sabah had grown tired of such form of administration and wanted the state to develop to the level of or even more intensively than the other states. -- more

MOK JS MGN

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Mahathir-slogan 3 Kota Kinabalu

He said the previous Sabah government should have practised policies similar to those of the federal government which focused on developing the rural areas.

Sabah, he said, would have become a leading state in Malaysia if only a part of its wealth had been used to develop such areas, something which did not take place owing to the attitude of the leaders.

"They did not care about the plight of the people because they were enriching themselves. It is for this reason that many Sabah leaders have become rich while the people remained poor," he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed that the federal government was not colonising Sabah, and said: "We have never looked at the people of Sabah as people of Malaysia's colony, but on equal terms with the other Malaysians.

"(Tan Sri) Sakaran (Dandai, Chief Minister of Sabah) is also from Sabah. However, we did not look at him as a representative of Sabah but as a federal minister." -- more

MOK JS MGN

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Mahathir-slogan 4 (last) Kota Kinabalu

Sakaran was Federal Land and Cooperative Development Minister prior to assuming the post of chief minister.

Dr Mahathir said he hoped that the Sabah BN government would discharge its duties well so that the people would realise what a good government was, and reminded ministers that their duty was to fulfill the people's aspirations.

"The important thing is a good government, not what we will stand to gain," he said. -- Bernama

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