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Mahathir-MCA (With pix)

CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE BN GOVERNMENT, SAYS PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 18 (Bernama) -- The people should continue supporting the Barisan Nasional (BN) government because it has proven its ability to fulfil the needs and aspirations of all races, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the BN government was fair to all races and gave priority to their interests and those of the country, the result of which was a peaceful and prosperous Malaysia free of racial riots.

The moderate BN government always opposed any form of extremism which would bring instability and riots in a multi-racial and multi-religious country like Malaysia, he said when opening MCA's 41st annual general assembly at Wisma MCA here.

However, certain quarters uneasy with Malaysia's success had criticised the country for its alleged lack of democracy and justice and so-called failure to respect human rights and the like, he said.

"What is more disappointing is that there are opposition politicians who are influenced by this or joined in such efforts to smear the country's image. They supply (these people) with incorrect information," said Dr Mahathir who is the BN Chairman. -- more

♥18/06/11-08MST

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Mahathir-MCA 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said the government was aware of individuals and politicians from the opposition ranks who participated in Malaysia-bashing by alleging there was no freedom of speech in the country in their interviews with the foreign media.

Expressing disappointment over such actions, he said this was a betrayal of the country, and the fact that they could freely voice their opinions exposed their lies.

"This is the difference between BN members and opposition parties. We are responsible in maintaining the country's performance ... on the other hand the opposition parties do not have any programmes for the good of the country," he said.

Some even had the audacity to falsely accuse Malaysia of aiding the Serbs through its participation in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

On talk of an early general election, Dr Mahathir said the date had not been decided yet but many were getting the election "fever" because of the antics of opposition parties. -- more

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Mahathir-MCA 3 Kuala Lumpur

He said one party was so desperate that it had to abandon its liberal policies and tried to get Malay support by changing its name and claiming to be a party of the Malays, for the Malays.

But in front of the non-Malays, the party said it was fighting for the rights of the non-Malays, he said.

The same thing happened for some people claiming to be champions of the Chinese but backed down when challenged to do something for the community.

He said: "What is it they are fighting for that the Barisan Nasional is not championing? If they don't have a struggle, it's better they shut up."

Dr Mahathir advised the Chinese to continue supporting the MCA because it could protect their interests and was acceptable to Umno and other BN components because it was non-extremist and non-racist. -- more

▼18/06/11-13MST

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Mahathir-MCA 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that MCA was getting stronger by the day and gaining wider acceptance among the Chinese community, and this augured well for the BN.

On arrival at Wisma MCA, Dr Mahathir was received by MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, who is Transport Minister, and other MCA leaders.

Present at the opening of the assembly involving some 1,500 delegates were leaders of other BN components and former MCA president Tan Sri Lee San Choon. -- Bernama

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▼18/06/11-14MST