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Mahathir-SAPP

"WE CAN, MALAYSIA CAN," SAYS PM

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(P)

KOTA KINABALU, July 23<sup>94</sup> (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged the people to inculcate the spirit of "Malaysia Boleh" (Malaysia Can) to strengthen their determination that Malaysia can fulfill its aspiration to become a developed country by 2020.

Stressing the "Kita Boleh, Malaysia Boleh" (We can, Malaysia can) slogan commonly used in sport, he said Malaysia had proved to the world that it could administer the country well without the help of others.

"Although we have problems, we have managed the country in a manner that the administration is going very well and the government-people rapport very good," he said.

Malaysia had changed its image from one dependent on agriculture and tin to an industrial country where more than 72 of its exports were manufactured goods, he said when opening the inaugural congress of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP), a Barisan Nasional (BN) component, at the Sabah Foundation auditorium here.

"Some people try to be cynical about our Vision 2020 to become a developed country like Japan and those in Europe and America. But have confidence that if we believe in ourselves, we can master all types of knowledge and skills," said Dr Mahathir who is BN Chairman. -- more

♥23/07/19-28MST

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Mahathir-SAPP 2 Kota Kinabalu

"We can be a developed country in 2020. We have to prove that we are capable, and Malaysia is capable," he said.

In the social aspect, Malaysia had proved that no one was neglected by the government, and the poor were benefitting from poverty eradication programmes, he said.

"While previously 57 per cent of the people were living below the poverty line, today only 15 per cent are still in this category," he said.

He said the fact that many countries wanted to learn from the Malaysian experience showed that it could administer the country well and its people of various races were united.

"Many countries claim to be more democratic but what is the use of democracy if their unemployment rate exceeds 11 per cent, with some touching 20 per cent. What is there to be proud of their democracy if their people have to suffer?" he said. -- more

♥23/07/19-45MST

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Mahathir-SAPP 3 Kota Kinabalu

Dr Mahathir said the close cooperation between the BN components had brought a lot of progress to the country, and, in fact, the opposition parties too had benefitted from this cooperation.

BN had proved to the world that 13 political parties could come together and cooperate while in other countries even two parties found it difficult to strike a compromise, he said.

Dr Mahathir stressed the importance of instilling in the people, especially the younger generation, the BN concept and spirit.

BN components should not only imbue the BN spirit in their young members but should also enlighten them on the need to cooperate, he said.

"We need to understand why we are in the BN and the necessity for one party to cooperate with another," he said. -- more

▼23/07/19-59MST

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Mahathir-SAPP 4 Kota Kinabalu

He urged BN components to cooperate with each other to ensure the overall success of the coalition in the next general election.

Under the BN concept, all BN members should support the candidates fielded by the coalition irrespective of which components they were from, he said.

"If a member did not support the BN candidate in his area just because he is from another component, candidates from his party will also not get support in other areas," he said.

In an election, every vote was important and therefore no one should think that a minority group could be ignored, he said.

SAPP President Datuk Yong Teck Lee, in his speech, said the people of Sabah had realised that the state had to catch up with other states in various aspects. -- more

▼23/07/20-17MST

CNS9005

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Mahathir-SAPP 5 (last) Kota Kinabalu

He said SAPP had 285 branches in the state while others were awaiting registration.

SAPP was formed on the eve of last February's state election by former leaders of the Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS).

Present were Chief Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai, state ministers and leaders of other BN components. -- Bernama

MOK OPP YBY

▼23/07/20-18MST