

aae

Mahathir-BN

BN REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE'S SPIRIT AND MATURITY, SAYS DR M

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Barisan Nasional (BN), which has won in every general election, symbolises the people's spirit and maturity.

Its electoral victories proved that the people accepted its concept of cooperation, he said in his message in a souvenir programme in conjunction with the BN's 20th anniversary celebrations tomorrow.

He said the coalition had succeeded in making Malaysia a stable, prosperous and dynamic nation because of the cooperation and tolerance practised by component members.

The formation of the BN after the 1969 racial riots reflected the people's awareness, and since then the spirit of tolerance had grown from strength to strength among the people of various races, said Dr Mahathir, who is BN Chairman.

Under the BN governments, racial politics had been reduced and the settlement of sensitive issues through closed-door discussions had prevented racial tensions which could undermine the country's stability, he said. -- more

▼23/08/18-22MST

R GE 23-08 00174 EG923

aae

Mahathir-BN 2 Kuala Lumpur

"Emphasis is given to the development of the people and a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth. Poverty is reduced and the economy grows rapidly," he said.

Dr Mahathir said BN practised the politics of moderation with all (component) parties given the same status in its Supreme Council, and its decision-making by consensus meant that the interests of the minorities were not ignored.

He said the fact that the same party had always been in power ensured continuity in government policies and created the stability necessary to attract investments to spur the country's economic growth.

"On the other hand, even a developed country will face a slow-down if there are frequent changes of government," he said.

He said the BN was indebted to past leaders like former Prime Ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn, Tun Tan Siew Sin, Tun V.T. Sambanthan, Tun Dr Ismail and others for their contributions. -- more

▼23/08/18-29MST

CNS5806

R GE 23-08 00112 EG924

aae

Mahathir-BN 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

In his message, BN Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat urged all BN components to renew their commitment to create a society that was dynamic, progressive and had high cultural values.

Malaysia's future as a sovereign nation depended on the determination of BN members and the people to shape their own destiny, said Mohamed, who is Information Minister.

Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib, who is chairman of BN's 20th anniversary gathering, hoped that the new generation would absorb the BN spirit to march in tandem towards a common vision. --

Bernama

AFY YBY