

CNS6587

R GE 24-08 00210 EG977

aae

BN-Mahathir

MAHATHIR CALLS ON MALAYSIANS TO KEEP UP GOOD WORK

bm

194

⑨

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight urged the people to continue with the good efforts they have been putting in since the country achieved independence to ensure Malaysia could compete with the developed countries by 2020.

The Prime Minister said this was necessary because through the struggle of Barisan Nasional (BN), Malaysia had achieved development that was tasted by people of all races and created unity among them.

"With the concept of continuity, we will march until the year 2020 to enable us to continue ruling because our struggle has not ended yet," he said at the BN's 20th anniversary gathering at Dataran Merdeka here.

He expressed confidence that with the solid support from people of all races, Malaysia was capable of progressing further under the continued leadership of the BN.

Dr Mahathir, however, reminded the people to be always conscious of and thankful for the blessings they received.

This was because not all countries could enjoy such good fortunes resulting from racial unity which had led to the lasting peace enjoyed in Malaysia, he said. -- more

▼24/08/23-335MS

CNS6591

R GE 24-08 00187 EG978

aae

BN-Mahathir 2 Kuala Lumpur

Describing racial unity as Malaysia's biggest success from the efforts of the BN and its forerunner, the Alliance, he said this was made possible due to the foresight of past leaders like the late Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Dr Ismail, Tun Tan Siew Sin, Tun S. Sambanthan and others.

He said achieving racial cohesion and peaceful co-existence in a plural society like Malaysia's was in fact an extraordinary matter.

The people should realise that it was this unity that had forced the British to grant independence to Malaysia two years earlier than scheduled because they knew they could not set the people against each other, he said.

Dr Mahathir was proud that BN, which was formed a few years after the 1969 racial riots, could foster unity and strengthen the people's resilience through balanced development.

To keep the balance, the BN encouraged the rich to continue amassing wealth to help the poor, unlike the communist countries which seized the property of the rich to distribute poverty, he said. -- more

▼24/08/23-555MS

CNS6595

R GE 25-08 00200 EG979

aae

BN-Mahathir 3 Kuala Lumpur

In tackling the problem of economic imbalance among the races which had sparked the 1969 tragedy, Dr Mahathir, who is BN Chairman, said the coalition adopted the moral of the story on the goose that lays the golden egg.

"We collect the eggs one by one. Slaughtering the goose to take them all at once will leave us with nothing after that," he said.

BN had drawn up a policy that was based not on the seizure of property from the rich but on creating various opportunities for the people to progress, he said.

He believed that Malaysia would not be where it was today if the people were fighting among themselves as this could scare away foreign investors who now invested billions of ringgit in the country.

He said this success had enabled Malaysian entrepreneurs to invest not only in the country but also overseas because they had already mastered the necessary technologies.

The Prime Minister said this scenario was far different from that painted by the foreign media which had frequently predicted of racial strife in the country. -- more

♥25/08/00-115MS

CNS6596

R GE 25-08 00156 EG980

aae

BN-Mahathir 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"The foreign newspapers frequently spread lies...they never carry good stories about us," he said.

Although much-maligned, the BN government's concept of cooperation eventually gained recognition from other countries who wanted to emulate it, he said.

He was proud that the BN government, a coalition of 14 parties, had succeeded in developing Malaysia into a model country compared to the situation in other countries where even a coalition of two parties could not last.

Dr Mahathir said what he was saying was not an election campaign but was something which needed to be stressed if the people wanted Malaysia to continue to command respect.

On membership in the BN, he said it was willing to accept any party whose leaders subscribed to the BN principles.

The event was carried live by TV Malaysia. -- Bernama

JO YBY

♥25/08/00-295MS