

Place for all under BN

By
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TAWAU, Mon. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded the people yesterday that the Federal system of Government practised in the country has been successful mainly due to the Barisan Nasional's politics of accommodation.

The Prime Minister said this meant that all communities in the country had a voice and they could channel their views in a constructive and cohesive manner through the BN system of administration.

He said under the BN, the voices of all the communities were heard because they were represented through their alignment with the various political parties within the BN.

He said no single racial group was left out under the BN, which provided a place for all Malaysians, irrespective of their race and religion.

The racial and religious tolerance practised by the BN was one of the factors which had steered Malaysia to become one of the fastest developing countries in the world.

To ensure the effectiveness of the Federal system it was best that all State Governments were ruled by a party which was also in power at the Federal level, he said.

Dr Mahathir pointed out that a State Government which relied on its own resources without the help of the Federal Government would not be able to effectively administer and provide development.

He said co-operation and understanding between the Federal and State Governments was vital to ensure



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that development in all States moved in tandem with each other.

"The BN concept is the best system of Government in Malaysia," the Prime Minister said when launching a water treatment project here today which was attended by more than 10,000 people.

Among those present were Chief Minister Datuk Salleh Tun Said, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Abdul Ghapur Salleh, and Tourism and Environmental Development Minister Datuk Tham Nyip Shen.

The Federal-funded project costs RM100 million and is expected to be completed in two years. It will boost the daily water supply capacity in the Tawau division by 40 million litres from the present capacity of 77 million litres.

Dr Mahathir said the "give-and-take" attitude adopted by the BN had contributed significantly to the enhancement of tolerance and understanding among the different races in Malaysia.

He cited as an example the BN leadership's decision to allow a Chinese candi-

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PBS seen as unable to do much for State

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date to contest the Tawau parliamentary seat although the majority of its constituents are Muslim Bumiputeras.

Referring to the Opposition Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS), he said a political party whose strength was confined to State level would not be able to do much for the people.

In Sabah there are seven political parties representing the various communities and they are all affiliated to the BN.

"And because they are in the BN their voices are better heard, and their requests for development funds could be easily channelled to the Federal Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said there was more development in Sabah during the one year the BN was returned to power compared to the nine-year rule of the PBS.

He urged the people to reject political parties like

the PBS and DAP which had no clear vision to develop the nation and improve the well-being of the people.

The Prime Minister said the arrogant style of leadership shown by DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang was not conducive to Malaysia, whose people preferred a caring Government.

He added Kit Siang's refusal to abide by a police directive not to hold a gathering at the Padang Kota Lama in Penang last night showed how arrogant he was.

He said it was typical of Kit Siang to challenge the police to arrest him whenever he defied orders.

When police asked Kit Siang to comply with the directive not to hold the gathering at Padang Kota Lama, he challenged the police to arrest him so that the Government could be portrayed as discriminating against Opposition leaders.

"It seems to me that the DAP needs power to go against the law," Dr Mahathir said.