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Mahathir-Rally

DR MAHATHIR HAPPY WITH SUCCESS OF MALAY UNITY RALLY

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is happy with the success of the Malay unity rally here which was attended by more than 50,000 people including non-Malays.

"Initially when I discussed with (Datuk) Annuar Musa, I was doubtful about the attendance and I expected around 25,000 people will turn up but alhamdulillah, many more attended," he said at a Barisan Nasional dinner here tonight.

The rally was organised jointly by Parti Melayu Semangat 46 and Umno at the Sekolah Kebangsaan Padang Garong I here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno President and also Chairman of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee, said the rally had special meaning because it was not only attended by Umno and S-46 members but also by Gerakan, MIC and MCA members.

This situation did not prevail in other countries where if one community held a function, other communities would stay away, he said.

He said unity among Muslims in this country was very important as this would help project Islam as a religion of moderation.

"We have to demonstrate to the world that Islam is a rational religion which has no intention of victimising anyone and thus correct the misconception of some that Islam is an extremist religion," the Prime Minister said.

He reminded certain groups not to have the feeling that they were more Islamic than others so that the people of this country could continue to live in peace and goodwill.

He said in politics there were no permanent enemies or friends and the important thing, however, was a sincere struggle to pursue wealth jointly.

-- BERNAMA

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