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MAHATHIR CALLS FOR COLLECTIVE EFFORT BY SABAH BN PARTIES

KOTA KINABALU, Sept 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the progress and well-being of the Sabah people in the future will depend on the collective effort of all component parties of the state Barisan Nasional (BN).

The Prime Minister says any problem or difficulty hindering the success of government programmes should be overcome in the spirit of close cooperation and mutual respect which form the essence of the alliance between BN member parties.

"BN component parties in Sabah must work as a team in achieving the plans and objectives of the BN government to bring the state into the national development mainstream," he says in his message in conjunction with the fifth general meeting of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat Bersatu (Akar Bersatu), a member of the Sabah BN, to be held on Saturday.

The one-day meeting will be opened by Akar Bersatu president Datuk Mark Koding.

Dr Mahathir, who is the BN chairman, says Sabah is still lagging behind in socio-economic development while its economic activities are focused in traditional areas.

Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, in another message, says it is the joint responsibility of BN parties to ensure that all government programmes are implemented effectively.

He says BN parties should foster closer relations in order to uplift the standard of living of all communities in Sabah.

About 800 delegates are expected to attend the Akar Bersatu meeting. There are no party elections this year. -- BERNAMA

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