

02 MAY 1996

Mahathir-Unity

MALAYSIANS TOLD TO MAINTAIN UNITY AND SHARE ITS WEALTH

MELAKA, May 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight that Malaysians should strive to maintain the existing strong ties among the various races in the country and always prepared to share its wealth so that the nation will attain a more rapid development.

The Prime Minister said that it was better that the nation's wealth was equally distributed than for each race to grab everything they could get as it would create chaos like in several other multi-racial countries.

"Although our wealth are not too abundant, we could still be able to maintain harmony among the various races through equal distribution," he said at the state Barisan Nasional's Malam Mesra Perdana at Seri Bendahara here.

Dr Mahathir, who is the BN chairman, said that the principles adopted by the BN had enabled Malaysia to prove to the world that a multi-racial country could be united if the people were always grateful with what they have and prepared to share, in terms of administration as well as its plentiful resources.

The Prime Minister said that the principles would continued to be upheld by the BN to ensure that the country attain the objectives of Vision 2020 to make Malaysia a truly united nation.

In this respect, Dr Mahathir reminded the BN component parties in Melaka on the need for them to continue to practise such principles in facing the Bukit Asahan state by-election to be held following the death of Datuk N.Arunasalam of the MIC recently.

He said that each component party should support the candidate chosen to contest the seat although he represented a minority race.

"We should give our support to leaders who uphold our principles to live in peace and harmony among the various races although he represents a minority race. In this way, I am confident that we will have the support of the people," he said.

The Prime Minister also praised Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Zin Abdul Ghani who was able to continue with the rapid development in the state after taking ove the helm from Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Tamby Chik almost two years ago.

Dr Mahathir was confident that the state's rapid development would make Melaka an industrialised state by the year 2010, 10 years ahead of the national target. -- BERNAMA

AH/MOZ RM