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Mahathir-Unity

UNITY IS KEY TO UNFINISHED STRUGGLE, SAYS UMNO PRESIDENT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- Party unity must be strongly upheld if Umno is to continue with its unfinished struggles in the interest of progress and to achieve greater success in future, says Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Umno members must also strive to overcome misunderstanding among themselves, focus their efforts on national development, and refrain from being power crazy but instead use such power for the benefit of the people and nation.

In this context, the Prime Minister said Umno must remain strong as there was still so much to be done and although the nation might have achieved Vision 2020, Umno's struggles should not end on that date because it was not the time for Umno to be eliminated.

"Our struggles must go on, for as long as we hold on to noble values, for as long as we carry out our obligations to the people, we must retain Umno," he said at the Premier Rally in conjunction with Umno's 50th anniversary at the Merdeka Square here, tonight.

"We know that it's not our right to say that we shall remain eternally...it is the will of Allah, but let us not be the cause for our failure, let us not be the cause for our disintegration, as such we must uphold unity in the party," he said.

The Prime Minister, who repeatedly stressed that Umno's struggles were not over, wanted every party member to renew their resolve to keep Umno's spirit young in every aspect, to be strong and to keep its objectives of commanding respect for the Malay race and bringing development to the nation.

He said Malaysia must become a developed nation in its own way, must not be arrogant and be united and work hard in the interest of race, country and religion.

"If we can remind ourselves of the responsibility that we must continue to shoulder and our objective of becoming a developed nation, then this gathering and celebration will truly be meaningful," he said.

The Prime Minister said although Umno had a ruling majority of more than two-thirds, the main Malay party was always mindful that the success all this while had always been achieved through the cooperation of the component parties and the solidarity from the various communities.

Dr Mahathir said many countries particularly the developing ones wanted to learn from Umno in implementing policies that could be accepted by the component parties of the other governments.

Recalling the history of Umno's formation and struggles since its inception in 1946, he said the political approach created by the party was extraordinary so much so that the world viewed Umno and the nation as having firm solidarity and a unique multiracial cooperation.

The early Umno leadership under Datuk Onn Ja'afar, was extraordinary that it brought great success to the country, he said.

Subsequently, the leadership of Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn continued to stress on solidarity which succeeded in uniting all Malaysians and up till today, the country continued to enjoy successes in various fields including a strong economic growth. -- BERNAMA

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