

22/09/1997

CM: Barisan has proved detractors wrong

TAWAU, Sun. - The concept of smart partnership in the Barisan Nasional has dissolved the myth that in a multi-racial environment it is difficult for a leader, especially one of a communal party, to persuade its supporters to make concessions for others.

Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee said efforts to maintain a cordial relationship among the State BN components represented a recurring challenge.

As such he said those who still had doubts about the effectiveness of the Barisan Nasional should attempt to understand the smart partnership concept.

Yong, who is Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) president, was speaking at the opening of the party's fourth annual congress here.

The SAPP congress, attended by about 1,500 delegates, was opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"The concept of smart partnership also amplifies the need for Sabah to be part of the national mainstream. We need our partners...in some cases, more than they need us," he said.

Yong said the smart partnership in the context of BN politics had further reinforced the belief that the BN concept worked by design and that this was reflected in the harmony, peace and prosperity in Malaysia.

He said it was vitally important that the "smart BN partnership" be put into action to counter the opponents of the coalition.

Illustrating his point, Yong said today the SAPP president headed the Sabah BN and led the BN State Government, a privilege which came with enormous responsibilities.

"We must remember that the privilege does not change the fact that we have partners in the coalition who will one day lead the Sabah BN," said the chief minister.

(END)