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Mahathir-Partnership

MAHATHIR WANTS ALL PARTIES TO PRACTISE SMART PARTNERSHIP

TAWAU, Sept 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged everyone including Barisan Nasional component parties to practise smart partnership in efforts to handle the problems facing Malaysia.

He said the smart partnership concept was even more significant to a multi-racial country like Malaysia where no one community should grab all the wealth for itself.

"Every community should sacrifice a little so that the other community too will benefit and all the people will gain," he said when opening the fourth congress of the Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP). The SAPP is the party of Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee.

He said smart partnership among the various communities would reduce friction and preserve political stability.

With political stability, the economic cake would become bigger and the benefits to each of the communities would also be bigger when compared to a situation where only one community grabbed all of the country's wealth.

"In a multi-racial country like Malaysia, no community can be assured of 100 per cent satisfaction as not everything it demands can be met," he said.

"As long as every party is ready to practise the smart partnership concept, the country will be peaceful and economic growth will be better," he said.

He said attempts by certain people to weaken the Malaysian economy causing the fall in the value of the ringgit and the share market should be faced up to by everyone under the concept of smart partnership.

The same spirit of partnership that prevailed among the various races when demanding independence from Britain should also prevail now, he added.

"At that time we were very weak compared to the situation now. We had no weapons, no intellectuals. We only had the will to unite to demand independence."

"The British saw that all communities in the country wanted independence and they had no excuse to hold back and deny independence to Tanah Melayu," he said.

-- BERNAMA

JS AAM