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Strong remarks due to desire for justice, fairplay

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NIBONG TEBAL, Sun. - Barisan Nasional leaders make strong statements not because they seek publicity but because they are fighting for justice and fairplay, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said today.

He said BN leaders desire to ensure political stability, peace and harmony, and a good life for the people of all races.

Koh cited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's criticism of financier George Soros over the currency crisis as an example.

He said the Prime Minister made known the country's strong stand against currency manipulation because he wanted justice and fairplay and to ensure that the interest of Malaysians was protected.

Koh said some people reacted negatively to Dr Mahathir's criticism of Soros and his call for rules in currency trading.

Now, the world was seeing the wisdom of Dr Mahathir's stand and even Soros had admitted that some form of regulatory system in monetary trade would be beneficial.

Although some people commented that Dr Mahathir was too vocal, Koh pointed out Dr Mahathir believed in justice and uplifting the lot of the people.

Dr Mahathir's criticism of local agencies and persons was also done in good faith with the "better good" in mind, Koh added.

That was why it was necessary to give him and the BN leaders full support to carry out the programmes aimed at improving the livelihood of the people, he said.

Launching the district-level Togetherness Programme at Taman Puteri Gunung in Sungai Bakap, Koh said it was imperative that the people work with the Government in making the nation grow.

The programme was organised by the State Government and the Information Department.

Also present were Nibong Tebal MP Dr Goh Cheng Teik, South Seberang Prai district officer Ahmad Phesal Talib and the BN candidate for the Sungai Bakap State seat, Lai Chew Hock.

Koh said the State Government had planned many projects for the betterment of the people, including those living in South Seberang Prai.

"If we are united and we work hand in hand, we can move faster to greater peace and prosperity," he added.

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