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Mahathir-Visit

DR MAHATHIR GIVES NEW CONFIDENCE TO SABAH/LABUAN PEOPLE

By: Jackson Sawatan

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad ended his three-day working visit to Labuan and Sabah today leaving the people in both areas with a better understanding of the situation facing the country.

The Prime Minister's visit and the important message he bore had provided the people of Sabah and Labuan with renewed confidence in the national leadership's ability to revive the country's economy.

The people were more aware now of their roles in facing the downturn particularly the need to remain united as stressed several times by the Prime Minister in the course of his visit.

Dr Mahathir adequately briefed the people on the causes of the economic slowdown in the country and in the region and the measures being taken by the government to bring about economic recovery.

The people have been assured of the government's earnestness in bringing about economic revival on condition they defended peace and harmony in their midst.

Dr Mahathir had said the government would not seek help from anyone in its economic recovery efforts except from its own people.

The help that was required of them was --remain united and support any effort by the government to bring about recovery.

By urging the people to have courage and determination, Dr Mahathir had prepared the people for drastic measures that were likely to be taken to expel the country out of the economic downturn cocoon.

The Prime Minister's assurance that it would make a thorough study of any proposal before implementing it meant that the people's interest was of utmost importance in all its actions.

Dr Mahathir's visit to Sabah was even more significant this time as the state would be facing an election soon.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Barisan Nasional Chairman opened the annual congresses of two component parties -- Parti Demokratik Sabah (PDS) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), during his Sabah visit.

On both occasions he stressed that cooperation among component parties was the best formula for victory at the polls.

Dr Mahathir reiterated the BN stand that its struggle was to help the people and hence there was a need for continued cooperation among its components.

"Our struggle is aimed at helping the people. We are in the party for a noble struggle. The BN exists because we have big plans to make our country a developed nation by the year 2020," he said when opening the PDS congress yesterday.

When delivering his opening address at the LDP congress, the Prime Minister had the same message. He urged the people to have greater tolerance to preserve racial harmony in the country.

In Labuan, Dr Mahathir brought good news. He told Labuan residents that efforts would be intensified to promote the island as a tax free haven to attract more tourists and also about plans to make it a garden island.

The Prime Minister urged Labuanites to develop the spirit of voluntarism and work closely with the local authorities to realise the dream of making it the most beautiful island in the world.

-- BERNAMA

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