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MPs, Assemblymen `duty-bound to ensure better life for the people'

KOTA KINABALU, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reminded Barisan Nasional's elected representatives of the need to serve the people and nation "almost as slaves" to ensure that the country continues to develop.

Speaking at a dinner with representatives of the nine BN component parties at the Pan Pacific Sutera Hotel, Dr Mahathir said the elected representatives were duty-bound to ensure a better life for the electorate.

"We have to use our mind, energy and time to serve the people and the nation," he said, adding that the only reward they could expect was the satisfaction when the nation progressed.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said each elected representative should have a strong sense of responsibility to the people.

"We should never even think about making money for ourselves when we are made the people's representatives," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the racial harmony enjoyed by the country was a result of the New Economic Policy.

Although, he added, foreigners were of the opinion that there was no meritocracy in Malaysia, the NEP had enabled the Government to narrow the economic gap between the various races in Malaysia.

"This has prevented racial riots like the one in 1969," he said, adding that the harmony between the various races in Malaysia should be appreciated by everyone.

Dr Mahathir said in a neighbouring country, racial riots were a regular feature because the economic disparity between the various people was wide.

"As a result, people are getting killed and women are being raped. Such a situation has not happened in Malaysia because the people had used their wisdom to elect a responsible Government," he said.

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