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PM calls for people to rally behind the Government

IPOH, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today repeated his call for the people to rally behind the Government as it tries to overcome the economic downturn.

He said: "It is important that all of you know the cause of the problem and remain united for the sake of the country."

He said the National Economic Action Council was doing everything it could to improve the economy.

He was speaking to a huge crowd at the Stadium Indera Mulia this afternoon on a half-day working visit to the State. He was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Mahathir, who arrived at the Sultan Azlan Shah airport at 3.20pm, was received by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and his wife Puan Seri Raja Noora Ashikan Raja Abdullah and State dignitaries, including State Executive Councillors.

Also present at the stadium were leaders and members of Barisan Nasional parties, senior civil servants and community leaders. Among the BN leaders were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Lim Keng Yaik and Peoples' Progressive Party President Datuk M. Kayveas.

Tonight, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, held a closed-door meeting with State-level Umno leaders before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir is on a nationwide tour to explain to the people the country's economic problems and efforts to overcome them.

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