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Mahathir-Greed

POWER AND WEALTH SHOULD BE SHARED, SAYS PM

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that greed for power and wealth will not benefit anyone.

He said that power and wealth should be shared because greed and selfishness would deprive others of equal opportunities in nation-building and the benefits of national development.

"In politics, we should share and cooperate as we believe that there is much more to be gained from this," said Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman, when addressing some 2,000 people attending the Sabah BN Convention at the auditorium of the Sabah Foundation complex here.

Dr Mahathir said that this principle should also be subscribed in the pursuit of wealth and affluence.

He said that if an individual were to attain 100 per cent of his target, it would surely be still much less than even half of what he would gain if the wealth was equally shared.

"This is because the spirit of sharing will lead to harmony and only in this way will the nation be able to forge ahead to achieve economic progress," he said.

Dr Mahathir said: "That is why, in the BN, we need consideration and not be ruled by emotion. If we were to give in to emotion, then our actions will not be of benefit.

He said that society would also suffer if they allow emotion and sentiments to rule them.

"In BN matters, we cannot have favouritism. We give priority to essential aspects in ensuring the success of certain matters. But if we were to tell ourselves that 'although it will be detrimental to the government, I still want my people,' the party will suffer," he said.

That was why, he said, the BN strived to be fair to all the BN component parties and the various races in the country.

But this did not mean that it did not benefit the BN because it was better to obtain half of what was desired than not getting anything at all, he said.

"If we were unfair to our partners in the BN and the various races in Malaysia, then the people will lose confidence in the nation and enmity will prevail and the country will no longer be peaceful," he said.

He however said that the government never take the easy way out to ensure justice and fairness for all to the extent of adopting the actions resorted to by Robin Hood who took away from the rich to give to the poor.

Dr Mahathir said that everyone has their own capability to attain economic well-being and as such, "we do not get rid of the rich ones but instead try to improve the lot of the poor so that they too can become rich."

He said that what was done in the country was the levelling up of the poor and not the levelling down of the rich so that they were on the same level as the poor.

Dr Mahathir said this was the reason why the government gave attention to the Bumiputera community who was lagging behind, by providing training and opportunities so that they would also achieve progress.

"Members must appreciate that the BN, through close cooperation, has succeeded in boosting the country's position...but if the BN component parties do not care for justice for all, then the BN will disintergrate and

we may today have to bow to foreign powers," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that because the BN had been fair and just to all, the country had managed to remain free of the foreign powers.

Among those present at the one-day convention themed "Justice For All" were BN secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, who presented a working paper, Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, Sabah Umno liaison chief Datuk Osu Sukam and leaders and members of the Sabah BN component parties.

-- BERNAMA

JS/KG RM