

Manifesto to sow unity

BN emphasises racial harmony, says Ling

23

Star 09 SEP 1999

KUALA LUMPUR: The Barisan Nasional manifesto to promote racial harmony is important to produce national stability, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said yesterday.

"And such stability is fundamental for any society. If there is no stability or harmony, the society will not progress but will stagnate.

"Such stability and harmony among races has always been the core basis of Barisan Nasional," Dr Ling told reporters yesterday.

Dr Ling was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on Tuesday that Barisan Nasional had always emphasised good virtues to preserve racial harmony.

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan manifesto had never been designed to incite ill-feelings that could lead to racial violence.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Barisan manifesto ensured equality in all areas as was evident in all education policies.

"Our education system is not elitist as educational opportunities are available to all citizens regardless of race or status," he said.

Najib said the Barisan philosophy was one that had been tried and tested successfully and would continue to be used by the Government.

In Seremban, State Umno and Barisan chief Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad said the Barisan manifesto would

bring peace to the country.

Harmony and good virtues were important ingredients to Malaysia as a multi-racial society, Isa said after the weekly state exco meeting.

This was especially so when other multi-racial societies in the world were facing some sort of tension or other, he said.

"I am sure every citizen wants harmony and peace, except for those who are only interested in inciting violence," he added.

Isa pointed out that the Barisan manifesto which called for racial harmony and good virtues were platforms used by the then Alliance over 40 years ago.

He added that it was still a relevant and important theme.