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All have role in nation's recovery, says Dr PM

RANAU, Fri. - All Malaysians have a responsibility to revive the country's economy, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Although certain States might not feel the pinch from the economic slowdown, it has a bearing on the overall development of the country.

Citing the saying "kalau kita cubit tangan, seluruh badan merasai sakitnya" (if one pinches the hand, the whole body feels the pain), Dr Mahathir urged all Malaysians to pool their resources and support measures to put the economy back on track.

"We must not view the economic downturn as a problem that affects the peninsula only," he told a meet-the-people session at the community centre today.

His visit to Ranau was to fulfil a promise after his flight to the district on the eve of the recent State election was called off due to bad weather.

About 5,000 people turned up for the gathering.

Accompanying Dr Mahathir to this farming district were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam and his wife Datin Noredah Majimpi.

They were met on arrival by Federal Minister of Land and Co-operative Development Tan Sri Kasitah Gadam, who is Kinabalu Umno division chief, and Ranau State Assemblyman Datuk Siringan Gubat.

Dr Mahathir said the development of Ranau would only be possible if the country's economy was stable and sound.

He congratulated the people of Ranau, the majority of whom are Kadazandusuns, for the Barisan Nasional's victory in the constituency which has long been a Parti Bersatu Sabah stronghold.

The Prime Minister also advised all BN candidates who won in the election to be fair to the people under their jurisdiction, irrespective of race and religion.

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