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Mahathir-Support

BN DOES NOT WANT BLIND SUPPORT FROM PEOPLE- DR MAHATHIR

PULAU PINANG, July 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the Barisan Nasional wants the people to realise the reasons for supporting the Barisan Nasional.

"The BN does not want blind support as this will not bring any good. They should understand the reasons for supporting the BN," he said when speaking at a meet-the-people session at the International Sports Arena (Pisa) here.

Blind support had brought no good to the supporters of several opposition parties in the country, he said.

By preventing PAS supporters from listening to the explanations of others, the minds of PAS supporters were no better than "wooden barrels" as they were closed to the views of others.

"This is because PAS leaders are afraid that their supporters will become influenced by the truth which will be told to them by Umno or BN leaders," he said.

This was one reason why PAS supporters had become fanatics, Dr Mahathir added.

This was the same with the DAP which was expelling its members just because they had the courage to criticize the Secretary General Lim Kit Siang whom they considered a dictator.

However there were DAP members who could think and take the necessary action such as leaving the party and joining component parties of the BN such as the MCA and Gerakan as they realised that the BN struggle was far-sighted.

Dr Mahathir said he wanted the people to understand that the two-thirds majority in Parliament was needed not just to enable the Government to amend the laws.

"What is important is that it will provide the government with strength to implement various development projects without being grid-locked by objections from the opposition," he said.

He said all government development programmes were not just for tomorrow or the next 10 years but for the next 30 years or so like the Vision 2020 which was expounded in 1991.

Various development projects being implemented would serve the interests of the nation over an unspecified period of time in the future.

The KL International Airport for instance had been planned and built to serve the nation for the next 100 to 200 years in view of its size.

The same thing with the new capital, Putrajaya, and the new township of Cyberjaya and the Information Technology policy which would bring Malaysia into the future information age, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the two-third majority in Parliament had also helped the government handle various problems and challenges since achieving independence.

With the solid support from the people, the government had been able to ensure that the country recoverd from the communist insurrection, Indonesian Confrontation, from the May 13 incident and the economic recession in 1980/81.

However the biggest challenge faced by the nation was the economic meltdown following the speculative attacks by currency traders and their attacks on the Malaysian stock market, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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