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BN `will never run out of ideas'

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs. - The Barisan Nasional will never cease to have ideas to accelerate the country's progress, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Barisan Nasional had a history of implementing pioneering policies based on "new ideas" which had proved so successful.

"We are so rich with ideas," he said, citing as examples the early days of race relations in the country with the coalition of the three ethnic-based parties - Umno, MCA and MIC.

Dr Mahathir said today this was adopted by the opposition which was now forced not to be racialist "so much so that Pas is working with the DAP".

He said all the ideas the Barisan Nasional government had were "our own, designed to suit our country".

Dr Mahathir said this in response to a question after briefing mass media editors on the general election at his office here.

He cited as examples the New Economic Policy to restructure society, privatisation programmes to spur economic growth, the Look East Policy, infusing Islamic teachings in government corporations and recently the exchange controls to overcome the financial crisis.

"Our solution is entirely our own, inspired perhaps by others but the actual design has never been formulated by anyone else."

Dr Mahathir spoke of "ideas" that took substantive form and helped the country ride the wave during the financial crisis - helping to boost the sales of cars by studying the hire-purchase system, holding carnivals to help the retail sector and holding home ownership campaigns to boost the property industry.

He also spoke of the setting up of the Multimedia Super Corridor, an idea nobody had thought of, the construction of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Formula One and Putrajaya.

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