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Mahathir-DAP

DAP'S "MALAYSIAN MALAYSIA" UNACCEPTABLE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SHAH ALAM, May 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the concept of "Malaysian Malaysia" which the DAP is fighting for is an alien idea unacceptable by Malaysians at large.

He said any attempt by the DAP to persist in promoting the concept would only result in communal tension among multi-racial Malaysians.

"The policy we are practising now has succeeded in minimising racial tension. It has in fact united Malaysians to be more patriotic than just trying to pursue the cause of one community alone," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said this at a press conference after opening the Selangor Umno building here today.

He said although the DAP dubbed the concept "Malaysian Malaysia", it was actually to further the cause of only one community.

Dr Mahathir said the Malays took the "Malaysian Malaysia" concept as a threat to their identity because it was a known fact that Malaysia was previously called "Tanah Melayu" (the Malay land).

"Basically, Malaysia was previously known as the Malay states. We (Malays) are willing to share with the other races in a fair manner.

"Let's not allow this partnership to make us the poorest community in our own land," said Dr Mahathir.

The prime minister was asked about the DAP's launching of the Malaysian Malaysia II concept by its secretary-general Lim Kit Siang at last Saturday's celebration here of Lim's 30th anniversary as a Member of Parliament.

Dr Mahathir said the idea of Malaysian Malaysia was supposedly based on meritocracy which would put first the brilliant, efficient and the rich over others in securing all the benefits leaving the inefficient and the poor with nothing.

"This smacks of subscribing to the ideals of globalisation that we should make way for those wealthier and more efficient than us in order for the nation to benefit more and instead make us slaves to others," he said.

Ask whether the government would consider the DAP's call for "Malaysian Malaysia" seditious, he said: "We won't consider it as seditious. But if we see that this arouse hatred between races as you know, we are responsible for keeping this country peaceful."

Dr Mahathir said if national security was being threatened, then the government would look at it as being seditious.

Asked whether the opposition party's use of the "Malaysian Malaysia" slogan was a political gimmick, Dr Mahathir said it was indeed so.

"Each time a general election draws near, the DAP will adopt all sorts of approaches, like wanting to be Robocop (in the last general election) and arrest everyone and therefore it lost," he said.

The prime minister said he would like to see the "merit" of the DAP-PAS political pact whereas they were headed for different directions.

He described the pact as "most fascinating".

Asked to confirm reports in local Chinese-language newspapers quoting sources that the general election will be held next month and whether he already had the inspiration to pick a date, Dr Mahathir said in lighter vein: "I confirm that there will be no election in June."

-- BERNAMA

ZS AZH RYN