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Mahathir-Economy

MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KOTA KINABALU, May 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there is still much to be done to revive Malaysia's economy although there are already signs that the economy is recovering.

The Prime Minister said although the steps taken to protect the national economy had been successful there were still much to be done to achieve the level of success that the country was enjoying before the economic downturn.

Speaking at a thanksgiving function following the Barisan Nasional (BN) victory during the Sabah state elections on March 12-13, Dr Mahathir said the measures taken were "extraordinary" and had never been attempted by any other nation before.

He said although the measures drew criticism from the major powers, economic experts and the foreign media which expected the measures to lead to Malaysia's disintegration, it was clear that such measures had not brought destruction but on the other hand succeeded in reviving the national economy.

"Today we see our economy beginning to grow and rising rapidly and those who criticised and belittled us are today forced to concede that our moves were wise," he said in front of about 10,000 people at the Likas Stadium, here tonight.

Dr Mahathir called on the people to preserve harmony, solidarity and peace as a wall against attempts by foreigners who were relentlessly trying to create chaos in the country.

"They incite the people to riot and hold demonstrations to bring down the government," he said.

However, their efforts had failed and the people on the other hand were giving greater support to the government particularly in Sabah as was proven through the BN victory in the state.

The Prime Minister also praised the Malaysian people for thinking wisely and not taken in by the persuasions of the foreign powers to get the people to riot and to bring down the government.

"We see in other countries that the economic downturn had resulted in the people resorting to riots and bringing down the government, but here they did not succeed," he said.

He said there were now groups trying to create riots and holding demonstrations to achieve their objective.

"But their efforts only lead to destruction. Rioting is not the way to achieve success," he said.

He also criticised those who intended to monopolise "everything" for themselves without caring that such an act would only lead to destruction of the country.

"It's better to receive a small portion of something that is good rather than getting a hundred per cent of something that is bad," he said.

On the BN victory in Sabah, the Prime Minister said the people should be thankful for having elected the BN candidates in sufficient number to form a credible government.

With the victory, he said, more development could be carried out in the state as only a credible government could fulfil the pledges made during the election campaign.

"We must also be thankful that the Sabah government is from the same party as that at the federal level. When the state government is the same

as the central government close cooperation can certainly be forged and this helps in developing Sabah," he said.

The rakyat must also be thankful as the last state elections could be carried out peacefully while not many countries could hold such peaceful elections.

More than 20 banners expressing the support of the people of Sabah for the Prime Minister were put up at the gathering.

Also present were Chief Minister Datuk Osu Sukam, Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and members of the state cabinet.

-- BERNAMA

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