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PM: Racial harmony essential to maintain progress

JOHOR BARU, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight no country can develop continuously without proper efforts.

To develop a country, the Government and the people must know the right ingredients.

Malaysia had succeeded because it had taken the right steps, he said at a dinner hosted by the State Government at the Menteri Besar's residence to mark the Prime Minister's two-day visit to Johor which began today.

Dr Mahathir said the people should analyse the reasons behind the progress and development of the country.

"Through such analysis they will identify factors that led the country towards development."

Two of the main factors are unity and moderation amongst the various races.

If the various races had resorted to extremism, there would be disunity and the country would not progress as it had, he said.

"Therefore, I would like to call upon all races to maintain unity and moderation because these are the formulae for progress and development.

"I would like to also remind them that it is better to have a little of something than to have the whole of nothing."

He said through this understanding, wealth had been distributed fairly with every section of society getting a portion.

Dr Mahathir warned that illegal demonstrations and racial disharmony could thwart efforts to develop the country.

Such actions will not only jeopardise investments but would also retard development and progress.

Dr Mahathir reminded the people not to be influenced by sentiments which could be detrimental.

"There will be people who will instil hatred amongst the various races simply to get support for themselves.

"These people may get some thing but we will not get anything."

Dr Mahathir said the progress achieved would also be meaningless if continuous efforts were not taken to preserve it.

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