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Mahathir-MCA

VARIOUS COMMUNITIES MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Various communities in the country must continue to work together in realising the objective of making Malaysia a developed nation, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight.

He said the cooperation which had existed during the time of the Alliance had succeeded in creating stability and this would enable the country to face any challenges.

"We can face any challenges if we are united, and the country is stable," he said at the MCA golden jubilee dinner at the National Stadium, Bukit Jalil, here this evening.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should be grateful because the hostility which existed among several communities did not last, resulting in close cooperation between Umno and MCA and eventually the MIC.

He said that the MCA and Umno were initially enemies but the wise leadership of both parties succeeded in bringing the two parties together and founded the Alliance.

He said the Alliance was later joined by the MIC and from there the concept spread and accepted by parties in Sabah and Sarawak, leading to the formation of the Barisan Nasional (BN).

"This is the history of political parties in Malaysia, a unique and extraordinary history.

"Rarely in other countries, we see parties at odds with each other come together and form a coalition party," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this unique cooperation had made the country stable and the most progressed developing country in the world.

"We should maintain this cooperation, stability enables us to face any challenges," he said.

He thanked the Chinese community for their efficiency in running businesses and industries that the external pressure exerted on Malaysia did not pose a major problem to them.

He also thanked them for being supportive to government's efforts to provide economic opportunities to all communities as well as working together with the Bumiputeras and helping the New Economic Policy (NEP).

Dr Mahathir said the MCA which represented the Chinese community in the government had made major contribution in cooperation with BN component parties in the interest of the country.

"The MCA's pledge that it will work closely with UMNO, MIC and other BN component parties is sincere.

"I'm confident that MCA will continue to cooperate in ensuring that the BN remains in power," he said.

He said this was because Malaysia had yet to achieve developed status and there was also Vision 2020 to realise.

--BERNAMA

AR ABG