

14 OCT 2000

Mahathir-Sacrifices

FAIRNESS BETTER ACHIEVED IF ALL RACES NOT FULLY SATISFIED, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that fairness is better achieved if the various races in the country were to make sacrifices and not attain full satisfaction.

He said that the government would not deny the rights of any races for as long as they were not extreme to the extent of creating disunity and racial crisis.

"I always say that in Malaysia, no one race can be fully satisfied because the government cannot possibly meet the demands of all the races," he said when opening the 47th general assembly of the People's Progressive Party (PPP), a component party of the Barisan Nasional (BN), at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

He said that Malaysians should be grateful because the BN government was cautious in its approach on issues affecting the various races.

Dr Mahathir said this was to avoid conflicts relating to racial issues.

He said that the approach was based on simple logic because if one race was overly satisfied and able to secure all its demands, the interest of the other races therefore had to be sacrificed.

Dr Mahathir said that the government's emphasis was to instil the willingness to make sacrifices and the spirit of unity among the various races as this was the key of Malaysia's success.

He cited as an example the unity among the various races which enabled the government to take positive measures to revive the economy.

He however said that unity among the races does not occur naturally but instead developed through the desire of the various races to live together in peace.

According to him, it was not easy to preserve unity and understanding as had been achieved so far by the BN government as all quarters must have wisdom and tolerance in dealing with the problems faced by the parties representing the various races.

He said that the common practice of the BN was to discuss all matters so that all the 14 BN component parties could jointly reach a compromise which even though could not possibly resolve everything, they would at least achieve a point of agreement.

"We should not be extreme in discussing whatever issues as it can destroy what we have already achieved so far," he said.

The prime minister said that the BN's achievement in promoting racial unity and cooperation was Malaysia's success story and many quarters including the opposition parties tried to copy its concept but they lacked sincerity in sacrificing party interest for the sake of the success of its pact.

He said that all the opposition parties had different objectives for their struggles and less than a year after the last general election, they had gone their separate ways even though they might not wish to admit this.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said that the BN remained true to its objectives, to defend the people and the nation and with the party's success, the objectives it pursued would be achieved, for the benefit of all because not one party in the BN had been deprived as a result of the success of the BN.

-- BERNAMA

MNY ES RM