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Mahathir-Malays

MALAYS WILL NOT GRAB POWER, SAYS MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- The Malays will not grab power in the country as it will only lead to instability and jeopardise peace, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

"Setting up a Malay government is possible but we want to work together with the other communities as we feel this will lead to peace and stability to the country," he said during the ceremony to hand over the final report of the 2nd National Economic Consultative Council (Mapen II) at the Prime Minister's Department here.

He said this was proven when racial riot erupted in 1969 with foreigners wrongly predicting that Malaysia would face instability as the Malays had grabbed power.

In fact, he said the event served as a lesson to the people that there was nothing to gain but rather much to lose when racial riot occurred.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said Umno did not take advantage of the disorder to grab power but on the other hand renewed its cooperation with all communities and eventually leading to better racial ties.

"Since then, predictions after predictions were made by the foreign media about the country that it looked calm on the surface but trouble underneath...we have no power over them...but we know better what is happening in our country," he said.

Dr Mahathir assured the people that the inter-racial cooperation would be continued for the good of the country as it provided the venue to raise and discuss any dissatisfaction felt a community.

He said given the imbalance in the development, one community had to sacrifice for another to ensure stability in the country.

An extreme demand by one community if left unchecked would lead to a situation like that in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Northern Ireland, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno remained committed to working together with the other races and "has no intention to grab power for itself. We want to share the power with all communities in the country."

-- BERNAMA

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