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PM: Correct imbalances

KOTA KINABALU, Sun. - Mutual understanding and co-operation between Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras is crucial to correct the political and economic imbalances between them, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Noting that generally the Bumiputeras were politically successful while the non-Bumiputeras were economically successful, the Prime Minister said steps had been taken to rectify the imbalance.

He said there was a need for the Bumiputeras to use their political strength to assist the non-Bumiputeras and the non-Bumiputeras should reciprocate by helping the Bumiputeras succeed in the economic field.

"Only through mutual co-operation will the Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras prosper," he said at a special gathering to mark the dissolution of Angkatan Keadilan Rakyat (Akar) here today.

Although the Bumiputeras were politically superior, they were willing to accommodate the non-Bumiputeras. In return, the latter had no objection to the New Economic Policy so that the Bumiputeras would have a fair share of the country's economic wealth.

"I am confident we will eventually succeed in overcoming the political and economic gap between the Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras," Dr Mahathir said, adding that the politics of sharing and accommodating practised by the Barisan Nasional was the best for Malaysia.

He said although Umno could form the government on its own, in the interest of unity and political stability, it had chosen to work and share power with the non-Bumiputeras and other minority races.

The Prime Minister said the BN's power-sharing concept had integrated the people in the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak.

Umno will continue to work towards uniting the people, especially the Malays, as evident from its proposal to hold Malay unity talks with Pas.

However, he regretted that Pas was not receptive to the idea although Umno had demonstrated its seriousness and sincerity to talk about the matter.

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