

28 JUN 2001

Mahathir-Hatred

PM REMINDS MALAYS AND CHINESE NOT TO BE TRAPPED

PENANG, June 28 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reminded the Chinese and Malays not to be trapped by the DAP and PAS attempts to instigate them against the government and Barisan Nasional (BN).

Actually, the Prime Minister said, the government and BN had been very fair by giving equal treatment to all races in the country.

Speaking at a meeting with state BN leaders here, he said the DAP which had lost their top leaders in the last general elections in 1999 had been brainwashing the Chinese community to hate the government.

Everything that the government had done such as the criticisms describing an extremist Chinese group as communists for making demands which had hurt the Malays had been turned into an issue and interpreted as a criticism against the whole Chinese community, he said.

Dr Mahathir said various other issues such as the ones over the SRJK Cina Damansara, the vision schools and the takeover of the Nanyang Siang Pau and China Press by the MCA had also been turned into issues so that the Chinese community would hate the government.

He also reminded the Malays to be wary of the ploys by PAS which had always opposed whatever development efforts undertaken by the government.

He said when tarred roads were built in the villages, they would say that these roads could not be eaten and instead used them to dry padi.

Ever since PAS ruled Kelantan, there had never been clean water supply for the people in the state to drink and thus the people should realise whether it was wise to give the party an opportunity to rule whereas they did not know how to be thankful, he said.

Dr Mahathir said PAS had also instilled the feeling of hatred against the government and Umno by instigating children right from the kindergarten stage.

"When their children pursue higher education in universities, they take up the scholarship offered by the government but later curse the government," he said.

The Prime Minister said this was done so that during the next general election in 2003 or 2004, the Chinese and Malays would reject BN while top DAP leaders Lim Kit Siang and Karpal Singh would win back the election.

Thus he urged all BN component parties to move in one organisation that forged a strong alliance.

He said matters such as the allocation of seats and appointment to posts should not be disputed because all component party leaders must have close cooperation and understanding.

"If such matters lead to squabbles, we will become weak and lose in the general election," he said while urging the Penang BN to close ranks and uphold the principle of supporting anyone who had been chosen as BN candidates in the coming general election.

He said the opposition tried to emulate the concept and understanding reached by the BN component parties but in fact failed as demonstrated by Karpal Singh who frequently questioned (Terengganu Menteri Besar) Haji Hadi Awang's statements.

-- BERNAMA

AHM+AZE AO