

29/06/2001

PM urges Chinese not to fall victim to DAP hate campaign

PENANG, Thurs. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight reminded the Chinese against falling victims to the DAP campaign of getting them to hate the Barisan Nasional Government.

The Prime Minister said the DAP, after faltering in the 1999 general election, had spared no effort to run down the Government and BN leaders.

"They have orchestrated numerous campaigns to pit the Chinese against the Government," he told a crowd of 2,000 BN leaders and members at a meeting with State BN leaders at the Equatorial Hotel in Bayan Baru here.

Also present was Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, who is also State Gerakan chairman.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, said the DAP's hate campaign included a claim he had likened the Suqei to a communist movement, its (DAP) opposition towards the Vision School, and the Nanyang Press controversy.

Realising it had lost the support of most Chinese especially in the urban areas, the DAP was now trying to woo them back in preparation for the next general election.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the Malays against similar hate campaigns by Pas, which he said manipulated Islam for political support among the Malays.

Instead of being grateful to God, he said, Pas leaders had misled the Muslims into hating the Government and its leaders.

"We must always count our blessings for the good life all of us are enjoying, despite the many socio-economic challenges.

"BN is a coalition of many parties representing many races and has successfully developed the nation. We are committed to this and will always endear ourselves to the people."

The blueprint for such a political co-operation, he said, had been successfully developed by the country's first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra.

Dr Mahathir and his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali are here for a two-day working visit to Penang.

They were met on arrival at the Bayan Lepas International Airport by 1,000 BN members, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood.

Also present were Koh, Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya, Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamed and the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly Datuk Yahaya Abdul Hamid.

Tomorrow the Prime Minister will meet with Umno leaders, including division chiefs, branch chairmen as well as Pemuda and Wanita chiefs from Bayan Baru and Balik Pulau at the Balik Pulau Sports Complex.

(END)