

04 AUG 2001

Mahathir-MCA

PRESERVE MCA'S STRENGTH TO ENSURE THE BN'S STRENGTH, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the MCA, as a Barisan Nasional (BN) component party, should preserve the party's strength and resolve its problems wisely to ensure the strength of the BN and in the interest of the nation and the people.

Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said that the future of the nation lies with the BN and to ensure that the BN remains a strong alliance, component parties including the MCA must also be strong and solid.

"As such, we are all responsible to ensure that if there are problems affecting our parties, we need to resolve them wisely.

"The MCA is a party which is most vital, together with Umno...let's preserve the MCA. Even if there are problems, I'm confident that they can be resolved without weakening the MCA...I pray that the MCA will remain progressive and strong," he said when opening the 48th MCA annual general assembly at Wisma MCA here.

Dr Mahathir said that the cooperation between Umno and the MCA and the strength of both parties served as the foundation for the stability of the political parties in the BN and the stability of the nation.

He said: "These two parties are the backbones to the Alliance and now to the BN. (It's) very important that we have strong backbones...we don't want to have weak back bones."

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said while Umno members should ensure that Umno remains strong, MCA members also have a responsibility to ensure that the MCA remains strong because without the two parties, the BN may "collapse".

"You can have your differences but we cannot forget our responsibility to keep these two parties strong and healthy to lead this nation," he said.

The prime minister said that when Umno faced difficulties to the extent that the party was declared unlawful and had no place in politics, the MCA never tried to lend its support to "splinter groups" attempting to replace Umno.

"The MCA was loyal to Umno and certainly Umno will remain loyal to the MCA," he said.

The close cooperation between the two parties, he said, had successfully led to the formation of a party representing all the races and which won 10 general elections held following the country's independence.

"Cooperation between the MCA and Umno has delivered all the things that we have expected of this country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that also as a result of the cooperation, the country had been able to enjoy stability politically and economically and was more progressive than other developing countries.

"Stability brings about much benefit...without stability it will be impossible for us to develop the nation because if the country lacks instability nobody will invest to make the country prosperous.

"The local residents and local investors will not make investments in Malaysia if the country is unstable and always experiencing chaos. Today, not only are the foreign investors investing in Malaysia, but more importantly the local investors (are also) investing in Malaysia and most of them are people of Chinese origin," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the Chinese community had played a significant role in the economic development of the country and they were very

efficient and dynamic in business and the enterprises.

"If previously we depended on rubber and tin, today we are an industrialised nation capable of exporting goods of international standard. All these are due to the dynamism of the communities in the country and this dynamism originated from the Chinese community...I appreciate and am grateful to them," he said.

The prime minister said that the Chinese community was however not greedy and agreed to the New Economic Policy (NEP) drafted to ensure that the country's wealth was also enjoyed by the Bumiputera.

"Through the BN, the interest of all the races can be taken into account and we are able to ensure equitable rights so that no one race will feel neglected...in Malaysia, it is impossible for any one race to be granted all its demands.

"The Malays will not get 100 per cent. So too the Chinese, Indians, Ibans, Kadazans, Bajaus, Orang Ulu and others in Sabah and dan Sarawak will not possibly get everything they demand...if there is a race getting 100 per cent, it means that an injustice has been committed," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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