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Mahathir-Sibu

RAPID DEVELOPMENT IN SIBU UNDER BN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SIBU, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he was impressed with the economic development enjoyed by the people under the Barisan Nasional (BN) administration.

"Sibu town which was previously backward under the British colonial government, has now transformed into one of the fastest developing town in Sarawak," he said in his speech at a gathering attended by 8,000 people at the Sibu Airport in conjunction with his one-day visit to Sarawak today.

The prime minister said before the BN took over, the condition in Sibu was extremely backward with no development and the people here did not have any employment opportunity.

Today, the people could see many industries and skyscrapers in Sibu and at the same time there were employment opportunities for the local people, Dr Mahathir said.

All these could only exist if solidarity and cooperation were maintained, he said.

If there was peace in the country or state, whatever was being planned for the benefit of the people could be implemented smoothly but if there were chaos it would certainly be impossible to implement development, Dr Mahathir said.

"The peace and close cooperation prevailing among the multi-racial society in Sibu has enabled the town to be developed into one of the most developed area," he said.

That is why many people in Sibu had succeeded in business especially in the timber industry, in fact they had expanded their business across the country, the prime minister said.

"The timber tycoons from Sibu are not only well-known in Sarawak but also outside the country such as in Russia, Africa and elsewhere. This can only be achieved if the country is peaceful without hindrance for anyone to carry out their business," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the BN government was not stopping anyone from going into business and in fact encouraged people to venture into various industries particularly in the commercial sector.

"Ask the opposition whether they can help the rakyat to do it, whether they can look after the interest of the people. They cannot develop Sibu. Thus, it is most important that the people reject them 100 per cent," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the federal government would continue to develop Sarawak if BN was again returned to power.

He hoped the people would give a massive win to BN in the five state constituencies around Sibu namely Dudong, Bawang Assan, Pelawan, Bukit Assek and Nangka, in the election on Thursday.

-- BERNAMA

AHA MAI AO