

01 JAN 2001
Mahathir-Malays
UMNO'S 2001 RESOLUTION TO UNITE THE MALAYS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- Umno's resolution this year is to unite the Malays and the party members at all levels, its president, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister said Umno would also strive to strengthen the existing unity among the Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

He reminded the Malays that the efforts to unite them was to safeguard their interests and not to create animosity with others.

"We must remember that we need not unite solely to oppose others. It's just to safeguard our interests," he told reporters after attending the People's Progressive Party's (PPP) New Year open house at the Putra World Trade Centre, here,

He said this when asked to comment on Umno's initiative to hold discussions on Malay unity with PAS and Keadilan which had drawn positive response from various quarters.

PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat was today reported as saying that he welcomed Umno's willingness to initiate efforts to invite the Malay opposition parties to discuss the issue of re-uniting the Malays.

Dr Mahathir also said that just because some Malays had succeeded, it did not mean that they (the Malays) were already strong.

"The Malays are not aware of their weaknesses," he said.

On his New Year wish, Dr Mahathir said he hoped Malaysians would continue to maintain racial harmony in light of the sensitive demands raised by a certain group.

Although Dr Mahathir did not refer to any group, the Malaysian Chinese Organisations Election Appeals Committee (Suqiu) had come under fire for allegedly making sensitive demands.

"And now from a very harmonious society, we have a very contentious society. So, I do hope in the year 2001, people will return to their senses and revive the trend of racial harmony which we have achieved after a long struggle," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians had achieved a degree of racial harmony which had become the envy of the whole world.

On the hacking into the official websites of the Parliament and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), he said it could be the work of people who were trying to censor the views of one side.

"In a way, they (the hackers) are trying to censor other people's news," said the prime minister.

He said the hacker or hackers, who called themselves "Topeira", had used their knowledge to fight against "the very principle that they are supposed to be fighting for."

"They are against the government controlling the press and all that, They accuse the government of controlling the press, but they are the ones who are controlling the press," he said.

Asked on efforts to make the government's websites more secure, he said the government could only try, but there would still be doubts on the security.

This was because highly skilled people in the field could always break the codes or systems used, he said.

Among those who attended the PPP open house was Dr Mahathir's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

-- BERNAMA

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