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Parliament-Mahathir (Formula)

UNIQUE SYSTEM OF RACIAL COOPERATION SHOULD STAY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the country's unique formula of racial cooperation needs preserving for Malaysia to continue to be peaceful and grow rapidly.

He said the whole nation should thank first prime minister the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra for devising the special inter-racial cooperation which today was being copied not only in this country but also many other developing countries with ethnic divides.

He said that without losing their racial identities, the various ethnic political parties were able to ride under the banner of an alliance which functioned more like a single party than a coalition of parties.

"This is the formula which brought about stability and economic development in Malaysia. If Malaysia is to continue to be peaceful and grow rapidly it is important that the protagonists of this unique system of racial cooperation should stay in power.

"Synthetic copies are most unlikely to achieve the same results," he said when tabling the Third Outline Perspective Plan (2001-2010) and the National Vision Policy at the Dewan Rakyat here today.

Dr Mahathir said as a multi-racial, multi-religious and economically divided nation, Malaysia was least expected to remain peaceful and to develop.

There were dire predictions that racial conflicts would be a permanent feature and the Malays who made up the majority would seize power and rob the other communities, he said.

"But we have proven our detractors totally wrong," he said.

Unfortunately, Malaysia was now faced with the politics of hatred, religious deviationism, racism and street violence, he said.

"It is difficult to understand why people in a peaceful and rapidly developing Malaysia should want to imitate the ways of countries which have not been able to stay peaceful and to develop," he said.

In fact, he said some in Malaysia were unhappy that the country was peaceful and the economy was doing well and instead they hankered after turmoil and violence, injury and even death.

"While they propound democracy, they are not prepared to accept the decision of the majority. They are not prepared to wait for general elections but wish to grab power illegitimately," Dr Mahathir said.

He said that during the recent fight between a few Malays and Indians in Jalan Klang Lama here certain people immediately tried to influence feelings among both communities to break the peace that Malaysia enjoyed.

He said it was well-known that certain individuals wished to see that the Malaysian government fall through street violence and intimated this to their foreign sympathisers.

"But this government will not hesitate to enforce Malaysian laws even if we will be condemned by the foreign media and certain foreign countries," he said.

The prime minister said Malaysia's well being was the responsibility of the Malaysian people and their elected government.

Dr Mahathir warned that if Malaysia's peace and stability was threatened, the government would act decisively to protect the country from foreign manipulations and their proxies in the country.

The prime minister said despite the opposition's obstacles, harassment and condemnation of every project to improve the people's living standards,

Malaysia had developed rapidly since Independence.

"It is the same with all other policies and projects. If their opposition is acceded to there would be no Penang Bridge, no North-South and other expressways, no Subang Airport and KLIA, no Proton, no NEP, no Malays in business and certainly none in the corporate sector and the professions," he said.

Bereft of all these, Malaysia would be a Third World basket case, begging for aid and being forced to obey foreign powers and international agencies, the prime minister said.

He said the Barisan Nasional-led government would not be deterred by the opposition's negative attitude and would carry out the National Vision Policy with all the means in its power for the good of the country and all Malaysians.

"It is with this awareness that the opposition will raise baseless criticisms during the debate on the Third OPP and the National Vision Policy and will deliberately prevent Malaysia's development that the Third OPP is tabled to take the country further forward towards 2020 and a Malaysia that is fully developed and at par with other developed countries," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said the OPP3 document was of special significance for Malaysians and succeeding generations as it contained policies and programmes that would be implemented in the first decade of the century.

He said plans were important to set the course for the nation to take in its development.

For the formulation of the OPP3, the government established the Second National Economic Consultative Council (MAPEN 11) comprising 154 members representing the various sections of the Malaysian society.

Dr Mahathir said the council's ability to deliver the final report on time enabled the government to consider the views expressed before formulating OPP3.

"Although it was not possible to accept all the recommendations, the government in full earnestness and sincerity had considered all the proposals carefully," Dr Mahathir added.

-- BERNAMA

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