

12 APR 2002
Mahathir-Government
CHOOSE THE GOVERNMENT WISELY, SAYS PM

KOTA BAHARU, April 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded the people to exercise wisdom in choosing the government instead of being ruled by their emotion to ensure continuous progress in the country.

Dr Mahathir said that countries have governments but not all the governments chosen have the capability to successfully develop the country.

"If the government chosen by the people is incapable, a country cannot possibly be developed even though we have an efficient and professional administrative machinery," he said at a meeting with federal government officers in the state, here.

The prime minister said that all countries have governments but not all the countries attained progress as can be seen during visits to the developing countries.

He said that they could be seen to be backward even though the people there were efficient and they have abundant resources.

"Some feel that for as long as we have a government, the country will definitely attain progress. This is based on shallow thinking. Having a government does not guarantee that a country can be developed," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that a country needs an elected government capable of formulating policies and programmes to be implemented by officers with professionalism.

"The democratic system empowers the people to elect those who should form the government. The aspiration under the democratic system is for the people to make a wise choice, knowing that those elected have certain principles, vision and capability," he said.

The prime minister said that the people should make their choice wisely after thinking calmly and assessing the capabilities of those aspiring to form the government.

Unfortunately, he said, under a democratic system, the people sometimes make their choice ruled by their emotion fuelled by anger and hatred instead of making such an appraisal taking into account their future and that of the country and as such, they fail to make a wise choice.

"Because of their anger, they reject them and choose those who will not bring any benefit to them and the country. When this happens, we will once again be unable to develop the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the government, right from independence, had a professional and efficient administration which had succeeded in developing the country which was now regarded with awe by the other countries.

"We set up an administrative machinery which is professional and perpetual, having full understanding of their role and responsibility. This is crucial because without their understanding of their role and responsibility, we cannot have a good administration," he said.

The prime minister said that a government elected by the people could be replaced and not remain in power forever but the government machinery was perpetual and continue to abide by the orders of those chosen by the people to govern.

"They do not question these orders as they are officers who are professional. They discharge their duties and when there is a change of government, they will abide by the orders of the new government chosen by the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that this is the system practised by Malaysia,

enabling all arrangements and programmes as well as policies of the elected government to be properly implemented and because of this proper implementation, the country had been able to develop.

"Alhamdulillah, in Malaysia the federal government officers are efficient, smart, knowledgeable and able to overcome various problems besetting the administration of a country," he said.

He advised the administrative machinery not to get involved in politics to prevent glitches in the administration and eventually retard the country's progress.

-- BERNAMA

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