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Mahathir-Consensus

BN PARTIES DUTY-BOUND TO SUPPORT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CONSENSUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 5 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties are duty-bound to support decisions taken through consensus, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir said that in the BN, all decisions were made through consensus and in the case where consensus could not be reached "we postponed the decision".

"So once consensus is decided, everybody is duty-bound to support it. We may lose some support, but that doesn't matter because the most important thing is that we take a middle line... everybody has to sacrifice," he told reporters when asked to comment further on his opening speech at Gerakan's 31st National Delegates Conference at Wisma PGRM here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the BN chairman, had said, among others, that all decisions by the BN government were made through consensus by all the component parties and the components should be brave in facing extremist groups and not feel threatened or afraid of losing their popularity or influence among their own communities.

"Well, sometimes the component parties feel threatened by their own community (that they) may not support them. But all decisions made are reached by consensus. Sometimes, if we cannot reach a consensus we postpone the decision," Dr Mahathir said.

He was also asked whether there was a need for the component parties to increase and improve their communications with the people at the grassroots level.

"I think they are doing that...largely," the prime minister said.

On a different subject, Dr Mahathir said the English language issue could be solved by consensus among the BN parties.

He said that no component party was disputing the need to improve the students' proficiency in the language and that the issue was how to implement the policy.

-- BERNAMA

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