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Parliament-Mahathir (Polarisation)

JOIN BN FOLD TO CHECK RACIAL POLARISATION- DR M TO OPPOSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today suggested that the opposition join the Barisan Nasional to avoid racial polarisation.

He was replying to Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) during Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat. Dr Tan asked what was the most important action that needed to be taken to avoid racial polarisation.

Dr Mahathir said there was no racial polarisation within the 14-party Barisan Nasional as all of them sat together at one table to discuss sensitive issues.

"We discuss without any emotion or flare-up and decide on the action that needs to be taken," he said.

He said when discussing the question of the vision school, for instance, all 14 BN parties representing the various races agreed on a single approach.

"Thus we can act harmoniously," he said.

Now there were opposition attempts to copy the BN approach, he added.

"We see this copying which has not been very successful...some want to have Hudud Law...while others hate the Hudud with some saying Hudud Law only over their dead bodies," the Prime Minister said.

"All this they cannot resolve.. now they want tolerance so that they can cooperate...when there is this imitation, the quality will not be that good...so my answer is join the BN...simple," he said.

The House was in stitches when Dr Mahathir likened the opposition Members of Parliament to "burung tiong" (thrush) as they are fond of picking up and repeating the phrases often used in western countries.

He referred to the phrase "Tyranny of Majority" often used in western countries used by Mohamed Nasir Che Daud (PAS-Kuala Krai) when asking a supplementary question.

He also took a swipe at the opposition for questioning every mega project implemented by the government.

"When we want to build the Penang Bridge before, the opposition was very angry but now the people want another bridge... not enough with one, they want another.

"We will build the second bridge if not the people in Penang will follow (Datuk) Malik Mydin to swim everyday (commute from Seberang Prai to Penang)," he said to the laughter of the House.

Before posing his supplementary question, Dr Tan recited a poetry in honour of Dr Mahathir for his contributions to the country.

Following is the poem:

"Anak merpati disambar helang
Terbang kedidi di dalam rumah
Harimau mati meninggalkan belang
Manusia mati meninggalkan nama".

-- BERNAMA

NN SNS HM TS