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Umno-Reaction (BN)

DR M'S REMINDER ON EXTERNAL THREATS MERITS SERIOUS ATTENTION - BN

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders say the timely reminder by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Malaysians should be wary of external developments that could threaten the country deserved serious attention.

They said the call by the Prime Minister and Umno President was not only for Umno members, but also to all BN component parties to continue to defend the country from being re-colonised without the people realising it.

MCA President Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said Malaysians must be always careful against external threats and challenges because lack of vigilance could invite foreign hegemony.

He said the whiteman regardless of whether they are Americans, Europeans or Australians, they have big ambitions to control the world.

"As such, not only Umno but all the BN component parties must be wary and united to ensure Malaysia's independence was in the hands of Malaysians, we must ensure our country's sovereignty," he said.

"All BN component parties must take seriously Dr Mahathir's views and advice because if we are not careful, one day foreign powers or Europeans can gain control of the country without us realising," he said.

Dr Mahathir, in delivering his policy speech when opening the 54th Umno General Assembly, said Malaysia was not excluded from being the target of foreign powers wanting to change its democratic government as had happened in several other nations.

MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said Dr Mahathir had maintained his tradition of inviting the people to think about their future and country.

He said the national and international politics raised by Dr Mahathir in his speech were important in efforts to further develop the country and people.

"His advice to politicians warrants attention. He mentioned what he expected from Umno. I feel it is not only for Umno but also for all component parties," he told Bernama.

He said Dr Mahathir's reminder to multi-racial Malaysians to preserve unity was timely, particularly to face the challenges ahead in the international arena.

"All of us must work to win the hearts of the people to ensure BN continues to be in power. We must win with a bigger mandate because we have done the best for the people," he said.

Former Dewan Negara President Tan Sri Michael Chen said Dr Mahathir had consistently reminded Umno members and the people to work hard to achieve bigger success.

He said the people should pay attention to the advice and practise it in nation-building.

"As his last policy speech at the Umno General Assembly as Prime Minister and President, obviously he wants to leave the party which he had led for more than 20 years to continue to carry the torch which had brought progress to the country all this while."

"Malaysians should understand the meaning of independence, the challenges and reality of today's world and the danger we are facing," he said.

Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said all BN component parties must give priority to unity to protect the country from external

threats and challenges.

He said every BN member must sacrifice for the party's interests above self.

"It's not only for Umno to prioritise unity but also all component parties. The people must think what they can do for the country and not what they can do for themselves," he said.

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Seri Ibrahim Abu Shah said students must understand Dr Mahathir's message so that they would not be used as a tool to overthrow the democratic government of this country.

He said the students must be aware that the regime change was not something impossible that could happen to Malaysia.

Hence, they must be wary against becoming the tool of the foreign powers to dominate the country, he said.

"Don't think it's merely a bogey, look at the history of the regime change in countries in South America, the fall of regimes in Afrika and in Arab countries," he added.

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