

Some BN Component Parties Must Buck Up, Says Mahathir
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that some Barisan Nasional component parties seemed to lack drive lately, and should pick themselves up and help the people.

He did not name the parties, but said that they should have confidence that they would continue to succeed and, with their partners in the BN, be a formidable force in the coming general election.

"If there is anything that makes people unhappy, find out what it is, go to the ground, and if we can help, do so," he said on the RTM programme "Bicara Negarawan" (Conversation with a Statesman) last night.

The other panellists were Universiti Malaysia Sarawak lecturer Dr Jeniri Amir, Bernama Editor-in-Chief Datuk Yong Soo Heong and Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Utusan Melayu group Datuk Zaini Hassan.

Dr Mahathir also asked leaders and members of BN component parties to stress inter-community cooperation.

Dr Mahathir said the coalition government has worked in Malaysia.

"It is a coalition government that has brought success to Malaysia ... We should not reject a system that has brought so much benefit to us," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that BN component party leaders should not accede to or support the demands of extremists.

"If we say that we cannot fight extremists, then we will lose from the start," he said.

Asked about the future of Malaysia, Dr Mahathir said that whether it would be bright or not would depend on the government the people choose.

"As the English say -- You get the government that you deserve. If we choose wrongly, we will get a government that will destroy the country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that it was not easy to rule a multi-racial country.

"In Malaysia, to ensure peace, every community must accept that not all their demands will be entertained," he said.

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