

**Umno Has Never Left Out Other Races - BN Component Parties**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 30 (Bernama) -- Umno, which is committed in championing the cause of the Malays and Bumiputera, has never marginalised the other races, and the development agenda, in fact, encompasses all ethnic groups including the minority, said Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders.

They said that Umno, which forms the backbone of the BN, constantly ensured that all aid programmes implemented by the government benefitted all the races in the country.

MCA vice-chairman Datuk Donald Lim Siang Chai said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak not only endeavoured to mobilise the economic transformation of all races but also looked after the welfare and interests of all Malaysians regardless of race.

Lim, who is also deputy finance minister, said these included the granting of various initiatives to the low-income group such as the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M) and book vouchers to students to ease their burden.

"It's appropriate for the leader of a multi-racial nation to be fair in granting aid to the people. After 55 years of independence, the people in the country have enjoyed development under the BN rule," he told Bernama when contacted, here Friday.

The member of parliament for Kapit, Sarawak, Datuk Alexandar Nanta Linggi said although there was no Umno in Sarawak, the BN under Najib's leadership had given allocations and various facilities for the benefit of the people in Sarawak including in the rural areas.

"The prime minister has intensified efforts to develop Sarawak, particularly in the rural areas, including the construction of roads, providing water pipelines and electricity power," he said.

Gerakan deputy secretary-general Liang Teck Meng said the prime minister had fulfilled what had been pledged to ensure that all races were looked after in eradicating poverty in the country.

"The prime minister, as the Umno leader, has never marginalised any ethnic group although his party champions the Malay cause. What is apparent in his policy speech yesterday is the assurance he had given, that the party always looks after the welfare of all races in the country.

"Thus, it is proper that we, as component parties of the BN, work together in defending Putrajaya so that there is continuity that can ensure prosperity for Malaysia," he said.

Meanwhile, Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) Youth head Datuk Jahid Jahim described Umno as a party that was ahead in championing the cause of the other races compared to the other parties, including the DAP and PAS.

Jahid, who is also the Sabah Assistant Minister of Youth and Sports, said Umno had never marginalised the other races, and in fact had considered the other ethnic groups such as the Kadazan, Dusun and Murut in Sabah as its partners.

Parti Rakyat Sarawak (PRS) president Tan Sri Dr James Jemut Masing said Umno was more inclusive in implementing the national development agenda.

"It's understandable that Umno struggles for the Malays and Bumiputera as it is an ethnic-based party. However, Umno being the backbone of BN, the implementation must be inclusive especially in religious and economic aspects," he said.

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