

## **Avoid Political Differences As The Cause For Split In Solidarity**

**Bernama**

**31 May, 2013**

KUCHING, May 31 (Bernama) -- Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abang Muhammad Salahuddin Abang Barieng reminded the people of Sarawak to continue to respect the results of the 13th general election (GE13) and avoid differences in political ideologies that could cause a split in solidarity in the state.

In congratulating the Barisan Nasional (BN) which had again formed the federal and state governments, he hoped the people would not be influenced by negative elements which could jeopardise the existing solidarity and harmony.

"As we celebrate the Gawai Dayak, it is most important for us to be grateful and strengthen the harmony and solidarity that had been inculcated in Sarawak all this while," he said in his message in conjunction with the Gawai Dayak celebration Saturday.

He said that this year was most meaningful for the people of Sarawak because they were celebrating the 50th anniversary of Sarawak's independence in Malaysia with various activities organised by the state government since the launching of the celebration in March.

Meanwhile, Sarawak social activist Datuk Seri Ang Lai Soon said the Gawai Dayak festival, as a unique celebration, was a time to reflect on one's good fortune to be in a tolerant society where ethnicity, custom, culture and belief system could be celebrated and were welcomed by everyone in the general community.

In saluting the Dayak community for their substantial contributions to Sarawak, in particular, and the nation generally, he cited the Muai Antu Rua ceremony in the Gawai festival, which has a significant message for everyone in the society.

"It is also a time to consolidate the basic tenet of our society that we will not allow ethnicity, customs, culture, or belief system to be used by anyone in our society as a divisive issue," he said in a statement in conjunction with the Gawai Dayak festival.

Present day society had become increasingly obsessed with other values, yet the really important aspects of daily life were the quality and the standard of living, he said.

"Bejalai has always been a rite of passage for many of our ethnic Dayak brothers and sisters. As the world has become more and more a global village, many have now settled in other lands," he said, adding that wherever they had settled the festival was celebrated and had become an annual reminder of their rich heritage.

"For our friends, wherever they may be, in our cities, our towns, our rural areas and overseas, this is a time not only for celebration but also reflection," Ang added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=953259>