

**Sabah Vital For Malaysia's Development - Mukhriz  
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KOTA KINABALU, Sept 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysia's development will be incomplete without Sabah, said Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir today.

He said that without the revenue derived from natural resources in Sabah, it was not possible to develop a state like Kedah.

"Similarly, Kedah produces rice for all the states including Sabah at subsidised prices to ensure the continuity of food supply in the country," he said when opening the Penampang Umno delegates' meeting here.

Mukhriz, who is also an Umno supreme council member, said the practice of helping each other among the states in Malaysia had been practised since independence.

Clearly, this was because past leaders had given the formula of unity to ensure the people's progress in this country, he said.

He also reminded Penampang Umno members to continue to strengthen unity to ensure that people continue to support Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

"I'm not the right person to talk about the unity of Sabah because Sabah knows better the meaning of unity as it has more ethnic groups and religions.

"But I hope the practice of consensus among Umno members continues. If there is no agreement, the people will reject us," he said.

Mukhriz also said the BN, which is a coalition of 13 parties, will continue to strengthen solidarity among the people.

In fact, he said BN was more united than the Pakatan Rakyat, which only has three component parties.

Meanwhile, Mukhriz also drove home the message that Umno was not a party that practiced nepotism.

Although there are Umno leaders who followed in the footsteps of their fathers in dabbling in politics, he said that their participation was determined by time.

"I am not fit to talk about nepotism because I am the son of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. But I went into politics in 2004, a year after my father retired. So the opposition should not accuse me or Umno of nepotism."

But nepotism is clearly practiced by the opposition in Penang and Selangor, he added.

"DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang has made his son Lim Guan Eng DAP's Secretary-General and now the Chief Minister of Penang.

"In Selangor, PKR has sacked Menteri Besar Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim and its adviser Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim wants his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail to become the new menteri besar," he said.

In fact, the selection of Guan Eng, who hails from Melaka, and Wan Azizah, who hails from Penang, to the post of chief minister and menteri besar respectively of Penang and Selangor shows that Pakatan Rakyat is not convinced of the ability of a native of the state to become its leader, said Mukhriz.

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