

MAHATHIR-INDEPENDENCE

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82 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 23 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY URGED THE PEOPLE TO GIVE MEANING TO THE INDEPENDENCE ACHIEVED 25 YEARS AGO BY MAKING THE NATION STRONG, HEALTHY AND ONE WHICH IS RESPECTED BY THE WORLD.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID INDEPENDENCE DID NOT MEAN MERELY FREEDOM FROM COLONIALISM BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IT MEANT THE MOTIVATION AND ACTION WHICH BRINGS ABOUT HONOUR, PEACE AND HARMONY TO THE NATION.

"IT WAS NOT RICHES THAT GAVE MEANING TO INDEPENDENCE BUT HONOUR AND RESPECT WHICH THE NATION BEGETS," HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE "MALAYSIA 25 YEARS" EXHIBITION AT MUZIUM NEGARA HERE TODAY.

HE REMINDED THAT THE PROCESS OF MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE WAS A CONTINUOUS ONE AND IT WAS EVERY CITIZEN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGUARD THE HONOUR AND RESPECT OF THE NATION.

"IF WE DO NOT WANT TO PROTECT OUR HONOUR, WE ARE TO BE BLAMED; IF WE ARE NOT RESPECTED THEN INDEPENDENCE HAS NO MEANING."

-- MORE 1800/LK

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AS SUCH THE PRIME MINISTER HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT DEPEND ON OTHERS FOREVER BUT WORK HARD TO BUILD THE NATION THEMSELVES.

HE EMPHASISED THAT LAZINESS SHOULD BE OVERCOMED BECAUSE EFFICIENCY WOULD BE ACHIEVED IF THE PEOPLE PUT IN THE EFFORT.

HE HOPED THE EXHIBITION WOULD INVOKE THE FEELING OF PRIDE, FAIRNESS, RESPECT AND LOVE FOR THE NATION.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE NATION HAD DONE THEIR BIT BY FREEING THE COUNTRY AND IT WAS NOW OUR TASK TO BUILD IT UP SO THAT THEIR STRUGGLE WOULD NOT BE IN VAIN.

-- MORE 1805/LK

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR HOPED THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD COME AND SEE THE EXHIBITION NOT JUST AS A PAST TIME BUT SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO REFLECT THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE NATION IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION TODAY.

HISTORY WOULD ALSO HELP THE PEOPLE AND MAKE THEM PREPARED FOR CHALLENGES AHEAD.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR URGED WRITERS, ARTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS TO PIONEER WRITINGS, DRAMA AND FILM WHICH COULD MAKE THE PEOPLE VALUE INDEPENDENCE.

THE EXHIBITION DEPICTS THE HISTORY OF THE NATION, THE COMING OF COLONIALISTS, THE STRUGGLE TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE AND ALL EFFORTS TOWARDS NATION BUILDING AND THE NATION'S FUTURE ASPIRATIONS.

-- BERNAMA 1824/LK