

Discard dole mentality

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Discard "dole mentality" was the message the Prime Minister sent out tonight as the way towards self-reliance.

He said Malaysians should learn not to constantly expect Government subsidies and aid but to be more resourceful in order to contribute towards development.

He said if the Government had to subsidise every loss in profits and decline in commodity prices and to reduce taxes and increase salaries everytime there was inflation, it would only lead to the weakening of the nation.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad called on the people to reject this Western value which had seeped into the Malaysian society since the colonial days.

He said many people were already influenced by this value and were lazy and over-dependent on the Government. These people, he said, equated hard work with slavery.

Such an attitude, he said, had weakened the people's resilience and represented a barrier to the Government's effort at development.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was speaking at the Malam Wartawan at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton here tonight.

He said the Government had no other intention but to build a peaceful and prosperous nation.

"The representatives who form the Government today have no intention of enriching themselves through the powers vested in them.

"The aims and objectives of the Government are to selflessly serve the country and the people," he added.

Unfortunately, the Government, though vested with wide-ranging powers and however sincere, would not be able to develop the country without positive contributions from the people.

To develop the country, he said, every Malaysian should be diligent and sincere in carrying out his task.

Be sincere

A government that ruled over a weak people would not become a strong government and a weak government ruling over a weak people would not succeed in creating a strong and dignified nation, the Prime Minister said.

The weakness could be overcome, he added, if the people work hard, were sincere, self-reliant and were prepared to defend the nation's integrity.

In this respect, he said, the Press could play an important role in changing the attitude of the people.

"I believe you all not only consider yourselves as newsmen but also as responsible citizens.

"I am also confident that you wish to see the country and its people progress and live happily."

The Prime Minister said he was confident that newsmen as patriots and a responsible group, would deploy their skill to mould the required personality.

He said newsmen should use their pen to erase the negative values of the West from the minds of the people.

On the Look East policy, he said, adopting it did not mean that Malaysia would buy all its goods from Eastern countries.

"What we hold highly is the moral values owned by a number of Eastern races," he added.

The Prime Minister said that in fact these values were universal values but while Malaysians understood what was meant by values, they however did not see fit to practise them.

"So the Look East Policy means learning how to practise values that we already believe in all aspects of our daily life."

He again stressed that Malaysia had no intention of absorbing wholesale the values of countries like Japan and Korea as, he added, there were practices that were not suitable to the Malaysian way.

"We have no intention of copying the patriotism of other races to the extent that we are prepared to commit hara-kiri. But is loyalty to the country and the industry which gives us jobs a bad value?" he asked.

"Look East simply means taking the good and rejecting the bad.

"These are the things which the Press should explain to the people," he said.