

All policies

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one objective

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today stressed that all policies currently being implemented by the Government are geared towards the well-being of the nation and the creation of a happy Malaysian society.

This includes the policy of absorbing Islamic values by the administration and subsequently by the nation.

The object of all these policies — especially Leading by Example, the Clean, Efficient and Trustworthy concept, the Look East policy, the Privatisation policy, and Malaysia Incorporated — is a happy and prosperous Malaysia.

He said the objective was not the creation of a society obsessed with materialism but to motivate the people to lead a happy, disciplined and fulfilled life.

"All strata of society should understand these policies and efforts of the Government so that they would not be divided by elements who wanted to distort facts for their own ends," the Umno president said at the opening of the 34th Umno general assembly here today.

Among the 1,200 delegates from 112 divisions and observers were the leaders and representatives of component parties in the Barisan Nasional.

The Prime Minister said to ensure the emergence of a happy Malaysian society with improvement in the quality of life the Government has planned a balanced development for the nation.

Development is for the people. Development is not roads or big buildings, hospitals and other public amenities.

rationale was that no nation could achieve and sustain harmony without values.

However, he rejected suggestions that Islamic laws should be enforced in the country to make Muslims devout.

"This would result in superficial Muslims who would run here and there to avoid Islamic laws."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that Islam stressed intelligence and a sense of values which separated man from animal and this was why the Government was making the inculcation of Islamic values the thrust of its efforts for the well-being of the people and the nation.

He said: "Islamic values do not differ from values universally accepted as noble.

"Only those who belittle moral values which are reasonable will feel threatened by the Government's aim to instil Islamic values in the administration and the workings of the nation."

The people need not worry about the actions of certain extremist groups because they were not moved by true Islamic teachings and the Government had no wish to absorb their practices, he said.

"All these are merely infrastructure for a more meaningful and all-embracing human development," he said.

He said real development is the absorption of more honourable human values by the people in the interest of their own happiness.

"Our efforts in nation-building are aimed at achieving a balanced development spiritually as well as materially," said the Umno leader.

Rejected

Referring to Government efforts to inculcate Islamic values in the administration, he said the