

People can help solve economic woes: Mahathir

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DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said Malaysians had the ability to ride out the worsening economic slowdown with their cooperative spirit and resilience.

The Prime Minister said citizens can help the government overcome the economic malaise by working hard and being disciplined.

"I have confidence that Malaysians are capable of doing this," he told a large crowd at Kuching's central padang after a traditional welcoming ceremony to mark his two-day official visit to Sarawak.

Dr Mahathir said less will be achieved if there is no discipline. "The government is committed to provide the rakyat with all necessities, but this can only be possible with the people's support and hard work."

He said the government, with the recent launching of the Fifth Malaysia Plan, hoped to achieve moderate growth. While a lot of work has gone into the Plan, it remains with all Malaysians to ensure the targets are met.

Dr Mahathir stressed it is the people who will determine the success of the Plan, striving together to help implement it effectively.

He said the Barisan Nasional has governed Sarawak well and hoped for their continued support.

"If there are any in the state who wish to create problems, it is the rakyat who will suffer," he said.

He added that the power-sharing concept among the country's various communities under the Barisan Nasional banner has served its purpose well.