

D172

R E676 AAE
MAHATHIR-FIGHTER
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 30 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT THE FREEDOM ACHIEVED BY THE COUNTRY NOW WILL NOT LAST IF THE PEOPLE ARE NOT PREPARED TO DEFEND IT.

HE SAID THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER THE FREEDOM ENJOYED NOW AS SOMETHING ORDINARY WHICH WOULD CONTINUE FOREVER.

ALTHOUGH INDEPENDENCE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WITHOUT ANY BLOODSHED, THE VALUE OF INDEPENDENCE SHOULD NOT BE LOWERED BUT SHOULD INSTEAD CONTINUE TO BE DEFENDED, HE SAID AT THE +WIRA NEGARA 1987+ DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE MALAYAN UNION FREEDOM FIGHTERS AT SUBANG JAYA NEAR HERE.

HE SAID ALL QUARTERS MUST DEFEND THIS FREEDOM BECAUSE THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY WHO WERE JEALOUS AND HAD TRIED TO PUT ASIDE THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES PRACTISED BY MALAYSIA.

AS SUCH, HE SAID, THE PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS REMIND THEMSELVES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VALUE OF INDEPENDENCE AND DEMOCRACY AND DEFEND THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTION SO AS NOT TO BE COLONIALISED BY OTHERS AGAIN. -- MORE

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A RACE THAT WAS NOT INDEPENDENT WOULD ALWAYS BE DESPISED BY THE OTHER SOCIETIES, HE SAID EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE YOUNG GENERATION WOULD GIVE ATTENTION TO BUILDING THE NATIONAL SPIRIT AND BE PREPARED TO DEFEND THE FREEDOM THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

HE SAID THE NEW GENERATION MUST REALISE THE NEED TO DEFEND THIS FREEDOM BECAUSE IT HAD BEEN OBTAINED THROUGH THE SACRIFICES OF OTHERS BEFORE THEM.

HE ALSO SAID THAT HUMANS WERE PREPARED TO SACRIFICE ANYTHING, EVEN THEIR LIVES, FOR FREEDOM, LIKE THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN AND KAMPUCHEA WHO WERE FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM FOR THEIR COUNTRIES.

HE SAID SUCH FIGHTING SPIRIT WOULD MAKE THEM MORE NOBLE AND REMIND MANKIND OF THE MEANING OF LIVING INDEPENDENTLY OR FREELY.

THE SACRIFICE MUST BE MADE BECAUSE ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT NOT BENEFIT THE SELF, IT WAS FOR THE RACE AND COUNTRY. -- MORE

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FREEDOM WOULD ALSO DETERMINE THE FATE AND DIGNITY OF A RACE, HE ADDED.

AT THE FUNCTION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO PRESENTED SOUVENIRS IN THE FORM OF UMBRELLAS CONTRIBUTED BY MALAYSIAN AIRLINE SYSTEM TO THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

PRESENT WERE THE PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI, AGRICULTURE MINISTER DATUK SERI SANUSI JUNID AND MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT DATUK DR YUSOF NOOR. -- BERNAMA

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