
Dr Mahathir: Hard work only road to success

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By Rashid Yusof

JITRA, Thurs. — There is no substitute for hard work for Malaysians who want to be successful and wealthy, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said there was no short cut to prosperity, adding that their ambition could only be realised through perseverance and willingness to overcome hardships and challenges.

"Therefore, based on this formula, it is not impossible for one to be a millionaire," he said at a meeting with Government officers in the Kubang Pasu District.

Dr Mahathir is on a two-day visit to Kedah.

The Prime Minister advised the people not to take part in the various get-rich-quick schemes offered by businessmen who might be exploiting their ignorance of business practices.

In an obvious reference to the various get-rich-quick schemes being illegally promoted in some parts of the country, the Prime Minister said the people must not be fooled by generous promises.

The Prime Minister is confident that armed with the right values and the desire to succeed, the people could not only help themselves to prosper but could also contribute to the progress of the nation.

During the dialogue, the Prime Minister said he was disappointed that there were criticisms against the Amanah Saham Nasional despite its extraordinary returns on investments.

He said even the major companies listed in the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange could not match the dividends and bonuses paid out by ASN.

Furthermore, he said, ASN had not suffered any loss and had continuously paid dividends, even during the recession in 1985/86.

He said on maturity, ASN investors would have enjoyed 150 per cent in dividends calculated at an annual average of 15 per cent.

He said criticisms against ASN were unwarranted as the scheme was launched to help in the economic upliftment of Bumiputeras, especially when non-Bumiputeras would be happy to join the scheme if given a chance.

According to Dr Mahathir, the ASN shares would be listed on the KLSE beginning next year to enable the shares to be traded at market price.

Since its launch, ASN unit share price has been fixed at \$1 each.