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Mahathir-vision

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight his vision of the future is not for Malaysia to move out of rubber, tin and palm oil and create little urban centres in the rural areas but to grow rubber and palm oil more efficiently and use less labour.

The Prime Minister described the existing means of using too many people to tap rubber trees as +terribly inefficient+.

What Malaysia should opt for is to tap rubber trees by merely turning on a switch in the morning by wiring up all the trees and having tubes coming from every tree, he said.

+In the morning, you just switch it on. The knife or the pin pricks the rubber trees and now they have used methane gas to keep the rubber liquid and that flows into a tube which then is pumped straight to the factory with nobody going there to collect,+ he said in an interview over RTM's +Conversation With The Prime Minister+ programme.

+ This is not a fantastic idea because actually the Rubber Research (Institute) has done a little bit of work on that,+ he added. -- more

♥18/02/18-01MST

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Mahathir-vision 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

The Prime Minister also clarified that the concern he had expressed over Malaysia becoming a newly-industrialised country (NIC) too soon was not meant to put the brakes on the country's industrialisation.

He said he only objected to the term NIC and the classification of developing countries, adding that there was no reason why a country that was growing up fast should suddenly be called a NIC.

+ Developed countries will force you to revalue your currency in order to make you less competitive. They will examine your human rights records, labour movements and the environment... all of which are designed to stifle your growth so that you cannot compete with them,+ he said.

He criticised developed countries for putting such a classification which only allowed themselves to make money and for their workers to earn more so as not to allow the less developed countries to catch up with them.

+They failed to do this with Japan. They didn't realise it, suddenly Japan was with them. But they are going to make sure that no other country will achieve Japan's status,+ he added. -- more

♥18/02/18-06MST

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Mahathir-vision 3 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that Malaysia must prepare for the day when it would lose its Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status which allowed certain of its exports to enter the markets of the industrialised countries mostly duty-free.

+ We have to prepare ourselves for the worse. Obviously people are going to take away our privileges like the GSP and all that,+ he said.

This the country could do by again being more efficient.

He said Malaysia needed the GSP to be able to compete in the initial stages but if the privilege was taken away too soon, then it might not have the resilience to overcome the problem. -- Bernama

♥18/02/18-22MST