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Mahathir-challenges '''

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has outlined nine key challenges which must be overcome to achieve his vision of a fully developed Malaysia 30 years from now.

Topping what he describes as +central strategic challenges+ which have confronted the nation since its independence is the establishment of a united Malaysian nation with a sense of common and shared destiny.

This must be a nation at peace with itself, territorially and ethnically integrated, living in harmony and full and fair partnership, made up of one Malaysian race with political loyalty and dedication to the nation, he says in his working paper entitled +Malaysia: The Way Forward+ presented at the inaugural meeting of the Malaysian Business Council here yesterday. The paper was only released to the press today.

The eight other challenges listed by the Prime Minister are :

- + to create a psychologically liberated, secure and developed Malaysian society, which has faith and confidence in itself, justifiably proud of what it is, of what it has accomplished and robust to face all manner of adversity.

- + to foster and develop a mature and democratic society, which practises a form of mature consensual, community-oriented Malaysian democracy that can be a model for many developing countries.-- more

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- + to establish a fully moral and ethical society, whose citizens are strong in religious and spiritual values and imbued with the highest ethical values.

- + to establish a matured liberal and tolerant society in which Malaysians of all races are free to practise and profess their customs, cultures and religious beliefs; and yet feeling that they belong to one nation.

- + to establish a scientific and progressive society which is innovative and forward-looking; one that is not only a consumer of technology but also a contributor to the scientific and technological civilisation of the future.

- + to establish a fully caring society and a caring culture; a social system in which society come before self, in which the welfare of people will resolve not around the state or the individual but around a strong resilient family system.

- + to ensure an economically just society where there is fair and equitable distribution of wealth; and

- + to establish a prosperous society with an economy that is fully competitive, dynamic, robust and resilient. -- more

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In achieving the objective of a fully developed country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia should not be developed only in the economic sense.

+It must be a nation that is fully developed along all dimensions: economically, politically, socially, spiritually, psychologically and culturally.

+We must be developed in terms of national unity and social cohesion, in terms of our economy, in terms of social justice, political stability, system of government, quality of life, social and spiritual values, national pride and confidence,+ he said.

The Prime Minister also said that Malaysia should be a developed country in its own mould and need not duplicate any of the 19 developed countries.

He said each of the 19 countries had its strengths and also its fair share of weaknesses. -- Bernama

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