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Mahathir-plan

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KUCHING, May 22 (Bernama) -- The Federal Cabinet which met here today has approved the draft of the second Outline Perspective Plan which will steer the country towards more intensive development by the year 2020.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the draft of the 10-year plan, which was agreed to by all quarters with several amendments, would be tabled in Parliament at its next session.

The draft emphasises the aspiration to achieve development objectives and create greater national unity, he told a news conference after chairing the Cabinet meeting, which lasted about five hours, at Wisma Rapa Malaysia, here.

This is the second time that a Cabinet meeting has been held outside Kuala Lumpur. The first was last year, in Langkawi.

All ministers attended the meeting except Deputy Prime Minister Encik Ghabar Baba, Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Radawi, Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid who are either on leave or abroad on official duty.

The prime minister said the plan represented the initial 10 years towards realising the vision of making Malaysia a developed nation by 2020.

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Mahathir-plan 2 Kuching.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the meeting took into account all the views of the Cabinet members who represented the various races and parties. However, the draft would come under review at the Cabinet meeting next week.

He said the government would explain the plan after it had been approved and announced.

The prime minister sought the cooperation of the mass media, both print and electronic, for positive reports on the matter and advised against any attempt to pit one race against another.

He said tolerance was necessary in a multi-racial country because one could not expect to fulfil one's needs totally but only up to a reasonable extent.

This was the way the Barisan Nasional administered the country and reached consensus, he said, adding that the nation could then be peaceful and could practise democracy and hold elections without fear of undesirable incidents.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he believed that the mass media surely wanted to see continued peace, racial understanding and development in the country and was not interested merely in its commercial objectives. -- more

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