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Mahathir-village

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SEREMBAN, May 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the target for the country to attain developed nation status by the year 2020 is not a dream but a reality that could be achieved if the people are willing to strive towards that objective.

The Prime Minister said that the people, whether in the towns and villages, should be prepared to face challenges, be disciplined and be involved in all government programmes to make the 2020 vision a reality.

Launching the +Kampungku+ programme at Kampung Jimah Baru, 18km from here, he said that although it would be 30 years for the target to be achieved, planning should be made from now because it was impossible for development to be achieved in a short time.

He said that the launching of the programme, for example, was the government's effort to develop the village community to adapt to the current situation and to be able to progress at the same pace with the community in the urban areas, in realising the vision.

Some 10,000 were present at the launching while thousands of television viewers across the country witnessed the launching which was telecast live by Radio/Television Malaysia.

The Prime Minister's wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad and Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat were also present. -- more

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Mahathir-village 2 Seremban

The Prime Minister said: +Some may say (the vision) is Dr Mahathir's dream. There were many things that we thought we could not do before that we are able to do now +

+We could do it. We would be able to do anything if we have the interest, prepared to discipline ourselves and to strive to make an effort concentrate on the matter in hand and God willing, we will be able to succeed, + said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who was wearing a sash with the words +Pemimpin Setia+ (Loyal Leader) at the ceremony. The sash was put on by a community leader at the village when he and his delegation arrived for the launching ceremony.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that the government would continue to focus on efforts to develop villages because it did not wish to see its community being left behind following the flow of progress in efforts to have the country attain the same status as countries in Europe, the United States and Japan.

He said that it was in fact vital for villages to be developed as they formed the basis for the growth of towns.

Citing Kuala Lumpur as an example, he said that the city began as a mining village but was now well known throughout the world as the commercial and administrative centre of the country. -- more

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Mahathir-village 3 Seremban

He said that in the year 2020 villages in the country would become organised villages and would have electricity and water supply and telephone facilities with the residents living in concrete houses.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir hoped that the village community would be prepared to accept changes initiated by the government although they might be forced to bend tradition like in regard to the type of houses that they would live in.

He stressed that the government had no intention of intimidating the village folks, adding that it was meaningless if the country were to be developed in the year 2020 but the development only exist in the towns.

+We want villages to also be developed like the villages in a developed nation. We do not want to see dilapidated houses but we want the residents of villages to live in comfort as a citizen of an independent and developed nation, + he said.

The Prime Minister said there might be people who would say that the village tradition would die if its residents no longer live in attap houses but live instead in concrete houses -- more

♥26/05/15-13MST

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Mahathir-village 4 Seremban

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that tradition was something practised +time and time again over the years+ and if the village community had all along lived in a concrete house, then it would therefore have been their tradition.

He criticised some Westerners who called for the Malays to retain the tradition of living in attap houses, claiming that they were scenic.

+We do not want to retain such tradition. . . actually tradition develops and changes. . . even the Malays have changed and are now staying in better houses, + he said.

The Prime Minister said that the plan to develop villages was proof that the government did not initiate programmes only in the wake of an election to garner support.

He hoped that the people could witness Kampung Jimah Baru turn into an organised small town in the year 2020.

+It will no longer be around. 30 years is a long time but it does not matter. . . if we only do something so that we could see its result during our lifetime, it would seem selfish, + Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

What was important, he said, was that all the development initiated would prepare for a more comfortable life for the next generation. --

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