

Vision 2020: Call to adopt basic values

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SEREMBAN, Sun. — Self-esteem and confidence, stability, far-sightedness and trustworthiness are the four basic values which Malaysians must adopt to make the country a developed nation by the year 2020, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed said today.

The Prime Minister said this when briefing Negri Sembilan community leaders and Government officers on *Vision 2020* to make Malaysia a developed nation in 30 years.

Dr Mahathir said it was time Malaysians got rid of the notion that they were inferior to Westerners, especially the former colonial powers.

Urging the people to maintain high self-esteem, he said the country was under colonial rule for so long because the people had always thought themselves as small.

With such an attitude, it was small wonder that the people could not rise up against the colonial masters.

"Even when we achieved Merdeka, there were people who doubted our own capability. They said we could not even manufacture needles, how could we administer the country?"

"Even now, there are such people with low esteem even though we have proven that in our 34 years of independence, we have achieved more than the hundreds of years of colonial rule.

"We have managed to maintain peace and stability even though we have

different races, languages, cultures, religions and interests. This is certainly better than during the colonial era.

"Vision 2020 is for a better life for all and to ensure orderly development in the future."

He said it was only with stability that the country could progress and Malaysia had progressed so well that even Westerners were surprised that a 10 per cent growth was achieved in 1990.

"This should give us confidence. Even though the world is threatened with a recession, we are still getting a lot of investments.

"In the first four months of this year, we have attracted \$9 billion in investments.

"We should stop this low esteem of ourselves. This is not to say that we are beating our chests or crowing about our success, but this is the reality."

The Prime Minister said the people should look far ahead and not only work for their progress but also the well being of the future generations.

He said only the selfish and greedy would work for themselves. He wanted Malaysians to be far-sighted and not dwell on petty issues.

He urged them to put aside petty matters and concentrate on development.

On trustworthiness, he said Malaysians must be trustworthy in all their dealings with one another and especially with foreigners.

"Do not make promises that you cannot keep. If we sign a contract with others,

we must fulfil the terms of the contract.

"Only when we are trustworthy can we progress."

He said the Japanese were a fine example of a hard working, far-sighted and trustworthy people. They had now overtaken Western powers as an industrial might and an economic power.

On the pace of development, he said it was better to be steadily progressive and likened this to the fable of the race between the hare and the tortoise.

"We may be the tortoise and the hare is now asleep.

"However, there are some Muslims who feel that it was all right not to be successful as they feel they could be rewarded in the hereafter.

"They should not be arrogant in the knowledge that they could get their rewards in the hereafter. Even then, our benefits in the hereafter depends on our good deeds now.

"Hard work, honesty, willingness to help others and other good deeds will help us now and in the hereafter."

Dr Mahathir concluded his briefing with a call for co-operation from all quarters to ensure the success of this long-term objective.

He wanted businessmen, politicians, Government officers and farmers to co-operate for the greater common good of all in the country.

Likewise, he said, workers and employers were part of the team to make Malaysia a developed nation. They should not view each other as enemies but should work together.