

aae tbe

Mahathir-OPP2

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- The New Development Policy (NDP) emphasises the participation and needs of all communities in Malaysia's progress towards becoming a fully developed nation by the year 2020, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+There should be no fear or doubts in the minds of any ethnic group that they would lose,+ the Prime Minister said.

He said the policy encouraged the mobilisation of all the resources and the utilisation of the creative potentials of its multi-racial society to build a strong economy and make the country more resilient against the instabilities and uncertainties of the world economy.

Tabling the motion on the Second Outline Perspective Plan (OPP2) 1991-2000, formulated based on the NDP which succeeds the New Economy Policy (NEP), at the Dewan Rakyat here, he said: +We believe that each race has its own character and strength that can complement the others.+

He said Malaysia was rich in resources and there was enough for everyone to gain from the process of development. -- more

♥17/06/16-36MST

U GE 17-06 00182 EG040

aae

Mahathir-OPP2 2 Kuala Lumpur

+However, it must be emphasised that if the Bumiputeras gain more than the others, this is because they begin with a lower base-line and more needs to be done for them to bring them up to the level of development of the other Malaysians,+ he said in his 90-minute speech

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that only by doing this +can we be assured of political and social stability as well as national unity, a prerequisite for progress.

According to the OPP2, the Bumiputera equity reached 20.3 per cent by 1990, still below the target of 30 per cent while the non-Bumiputera equity was 45.9 per cent, above the target of 40 per cent.

The Prime Minister said it was better that all Malaysians worked together to remove the imbalances as fast as possible. -- more

♥17/06/17-49MST

CNS8961

U GE 17-06 00192 EG546

aae

Mahathir-OPP2 3 Kuala Lumpur

He said the task of reducing these imbalances should not be left to the government alone. It was also the duty of the private sector to play a more sincere and effective role in providing productive opportunities for the Bumiputeras to progress.

+The faster we move towards redressing ethnic imbalances, the lesser will be the need to have privileges for the Bumiputeras,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that the faster the NDP target was achieved and the Bumiputeras became real business people, the sooner would the need to favour Bumiputeras as a matter of policy be ended.

Conversely, if the +Ali Baba+ partnership was resorted to, then the OPP2 would have to be followed by similar policies after its expiry period, he added.

The Prime Minister reminded the Bumiputeras to stop the habit of complaining about sabotage in business because +like politics, business can be dirty.+

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also proposed more non-Bumiputeras be representation in certain sectors such as agriculture, land settlement schemes and public sector employment. -- more

♥17/06/18-02MST

CNS9049

U GE 17-06 00196 EG550

aae

Mahathir-OPP2 4 Kuala Lumpur

+Similarly, in implementing the privatisation programme, opportunities will also be given to the non-Bumiputeras to participate in the privatised projects and to own shares in these projects,+ he said.

On the 30 per cent Bumiputera equity in the corporate sector, he said although no quantitative targets and no specific time frame had been set for achieving a quantitative objective under the OPP2, a review would be made of the policy to support Bumiputera participation in the economy at the end of 2020.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said it was necessary to remind the new generation of Malaysians of the racial riots in 1969 so that they would understand that the existence of socio-economic imbalances along racial lines was not conducive to stability of national unity.

+Accordingly, efforts to perpetuate socio-economic imbalances along racial lines will only lead to instability and disunity in the country,+ he said.

He said that despite the shortfalls and weaknesses in achieving the objectives of the NEP, great strides had been made to achieve both growth and equity in the development process. -- more

♥17/06/19-02MST

CNS9067

U GE 17-06 00163 EG551

aae tbe

Mahathir-OPP2 5 Kuala Lumpur

This had made Malaysia a unique model among developing countries, he said.

+There is hardly any multi-racial country in the developing world which has been able to carry out this experiment in socio-economic engineering successfully, without disrupting and reducing or even negating economic growth,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that under the OPP2, priority was given to the development of science and technology and human resources.

The government would embark on a deliberate effort to increase private and public sector investment in Research and Development.

+We must be dynamic, innovative and pragmatic in our approach and above all, the private sector must play a leading and proactive role,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government would continue to hold dialogues with the private sector to maintain better cooperation and greater private involvement in the implementation of the NDP. -- Bernama

♥17/06/19-13MST