

CNS7581

U GE 13-08 00157 EG782

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Mahathir-card '''

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-@-@-@-BPETALING JAYA, Aug 13, (Bernama) -- The Malaysian citizenship is not given free of charge and the price for it is loyalty and responsibility to the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

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However, he said, they were Malaysians, too westernised in their outlook, who thought citizenship had nothing to do with loyalty to the country.

+These people don't mind being tools of foreigners with bad intentions towards us. They receive money from foreigners to sabotage their own country,+ he said when launching the new Malaysian identity card with extra security features at the National Registration Department headquarters here.

He said this group claimed that they were championing human rights and the environment.

+Human rights and the environment are the responsibilities of Malaysian citizens. It is they who should determine what to safeguard,+ he said. -- more

♥13/08/14-34MST

CNS7588

U GE 13-08 00172 EG783

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Mahathir-card 2\*Petaling Jaya '''

The Prime Minister reminded IC holders to take very good care of their identity cards as they are very valuable personal effects.

Many people wanted to get hold of the ICs by whatever means he said.

The IC determines a citizen's right to vote to decide the country's politics, to obtain a passport for travel abroad to obtain government aid and to be able to use educational and health facilities, he said.

+But this right is not free of charge. Nothing is given free on earth or the life after,. The right to citizenship must be paid in terms of loyalty and responsibility to the country,+ said the Prime Minister.

When approached by reporters later, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said pressure groups in the country were easily swayed by their western counterparts which were bent on discrediting Malaysia.

He said local pressure groups should not allow themselves to be exploited by others.-- more

♥13/08/14-55MST

CNS7615

U GE 13-08 00135 EG784

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Mahathir-card 3 Petaling Jaya'''

He said the people should appreciate that the Malaysian citizenship accorded them a privilege to enjoy numerous benefits which many foreigners wanted to get hold of too.

+Instead, we have citizens who are disloyal after having enjoyed the privileges,+ he said.

**Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government could only revoke the citizenship of these people if there was proof they were enjoying the benefits of dual citizenship.**

However, their activities have not yet threatened national security, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir who is also Home Minister,

When asked about the environmental activist group, Greens, the Prime Minister said its members should hold more demonstrations in their own countries where threats to the environment were greater.-- more

♥13/08/15-30MST

CNS7678

U GE 13-08 00152 EG786

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Mahathir-card 4 Petaling Jaya '''

According to the Prime Minister, Greens members often talked of the rule of law but would not hesitate to break the laws of other countries.

+They still have the colonial mentality and think they have the rights over other countries just like during the old colonial times,+ he said citing the example of Bruno Manser, the Swiss who overstayed in Sarawak to be with the Penans.

He said the anti-Made in Malaysia furniture campaign was an example of economic arm-twisting of developing nations by developed countries.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the new IC had several security features to avoid forgery.

The new IC would enable collection of data on population **and help in** the setting up of a data base to facilitate national planning and handling of public woes, he said. -- more

♥13/08/16-28MST

CNS7701

U GE 13-08 00156 EG787

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Mahathir-card 5 Petaling Jaya (last) '''

The government spent \$64 million to implement the project which used the latest technology such as computers to improve on the old system, he said.

The Prime Minister was later given the honour of being the first person to be issued with the new IC, presented to him by Director-General of National Registration Encik Kamaruddin Nordin.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk **Megat Junid Megat Ayob** and the ministry's parliamentary secretary Encik Ong Ka Ting were also issued with new ICs at the function.

The credit card-sized new IC measuring 86 cm x 54 cm bears the card number, name ; birthdate and address of the holder.

The department will issue about 15 million new ICs in six years.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir later toured the headquarters complex to have a closer look of the department's operations.-- Bernama

♥13/08/16-45MST