

CNS6555

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Mahathir - message

(Embargo: For release after 9.30 pm today)

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30⁹¹ (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the people should not feel satisfied with the present level of achievement if they want Malaysia to be a developed country by the year 2020.

He said economic growth should be enhanced and the people should be prepared to discard old and outdated methods for modern ones which could help achieve the nation's target.

Present indicators were that Malaysia was on the right path, he said in his message over Radio and Television Malaysia (RTM) tonight in conjunction with the 34th National Day tomorrow.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia's economic performance was something to be proud of as we were not only able to register a high rate of growth of 10 per cent in 1990 but also maintain a low inflation rate of three per cent+.

The government had also been able to reduce poverty among the people through training and the creation of more jobs, he said. -- more

▼30/08/19-51MST

CNS6558

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Mahathir - message 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said every member of society, from government leaders to ordinary workers and traders, should work together to realise the target to make this country a developed nation in 30 years.

An important factor that could help achieve the target was national unity, he added.

The unity should be based on understanding within and among the various communities and through the caring spirit.

+As such, it is important to practise tolerance and the concept of helping each other,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said the people should avoid activities that could threaten peace and harmony. -- more

▼30/08/19-52MST

CNS6566

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Mahathir - message 3 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that above all the people should struggle hard and be prepared to place the nation's interest before self-interest. This would benefit them in the long run.

+To ensure that the country will continue to achieve rapid economic development, the government will continue with liberal and pragmatic policies that can attract more local and foreign investment,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia would step up its manufacturing industries by encouraging the setting up of high technology and sophisticated industries and enhancing research and development activities.

He said entrepreneurs and exporters should also improve their efficiency and productivity so that the nation could be more competitive while workers also had a role to play in maintaining a good investment climate.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that if industrial disputes began to plague the industries, investment would slow down and the unemployment problem could not be overcome. Workers' income would not increase under such a situation.

He said it was also important to give proper education to the younger generation to ensure that they could meet future challenges in life.

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▼30/08/20-05MST

CNS6581

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Mahathir - message 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

The Prime Minister said the family institution should be strengthened to prevent social problems like child abuse, wife battering, dadah abuse and AIDS.

He said many people understood the objectives of Vision 2020 and were convinced that Malaysia could be an industrialised country by that year with a per capita income of US\$10,000.

Industries and income were the gauge of development but the developed nation that was being visualised meant having people with, among other things, good education, high values and a caring attitude, and who exercised tolerance and appreciated the environment, he said.

He said the theme of this year's National Day celebrations, +Wawasan 2020+, would enable the people to learn more of the vision. -- Bernama

▼30/08/20-35MST