

CNS7417

U GE 11-10 00214 EG300

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Attention editors: repetition correcting header ''

POST-MERDEKA AFFLUENT CITIZENS MUST HELP THE POOR: MAHATHIR

Mahathir ''

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91 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Malaysians who became affluent during the post-independence period and the implementation of the New Economic Policy have a social responsibility to help the less fortunate sector of the community, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+ We should not totally rely on the government to help this group (the less fortunate),+ he said when launching the Ubaidi Foundation here.

The government always welcomed the gestures of individuals or the private sector to help the less fortunate, he said.

In this context, paying zakat is a novel obligation for Muslims in ensuring social justice because wealth acquired by those who could make the most of opportunities is distributed to the poor, he said.

The Prime Minister said Muslims should not just be takers but instead strive to acquire wealth in the manner permitted by Islam (halal) so that they could in turn contribute zakat (tithes).

He said it was not obligatory to receive zakat and a society that only take rather than give could never be a happy one.-- more

♥11/10/14-34MST

CNS7377

U GE 11-10 00123 EG298

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Mahathir 2 Kuala Lumpur ''

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the western concept of a welfare state which pays its citizens for not doing work would only make society lazy, chaotic and stagnate development efforts.

+Even the most developed nation becomes weak because of this attitude,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said those who have improved their financial standing should repay society for the opportunities made available to them.

This would create a society endowed with many philanthropists and those in dire need of assistance would not be disillusioned knowing that there were abundant resources available.

He said such a society would become a just and prosperous society.-- more

♥11/10/12-56MST

CNS7387

U GE 11-10 00167 EG299

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Mahathir 3 Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the establishment of the Ubaidi Foundation reflected the sense of responsibility of its founder Tan Sri Ubaidullah Kadir Basra to serve society.

The Prime Minister said Tan Sri Ubaidullah is a successful businessman and philanthropist who has contributed towards the religion, race and nation.

The Foundation, which now has assets worth \$15 million, was registered on May 12 last year and had invested in property.

Returns from its investments amounted to \$1.5 million annually.

The Foundation's board of trustees comprised Tan Sri S.O.K.

Ubaidullah's family members, a philanthropist from Johor, Haji Abdul Wahid Varthan Abdul Ghani and a Finance Ministry official.

A Supreme Court Judge would also be invited to sit on the board.

The Foundation's 14 objectives include to assist the poor regardless of race, religion and ancestry and provide aid to institutions involved in medical and educational research.-- Bernama

♥11/10/13-06MST