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MAHATHIR CONFIDENT VISION 2020 OBJECTIVE CAN BE ACHIEVED

Mahathir - vision

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GENTING HIGHLANDS, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today public response convinces him that the government can achieve its Vision 2020 objective of making Malaysia a developed nation in 30 years.

His confidence was derived from the total involvement, of all levels of society towards achieving the objective, he said.

"I am satisfied because all levels of society in the country are aware of Vision 2020 and have discussed and given much thought to what they should do."

With this awareness, there is a greater possibility of us achieving the objective of Vision 2020, he told a news conference after a closed-door meeting with participants of a national seminar on the vision, here.

On the involvement of the private sector, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said feedback indicated that it wanted to participate in every endeavour and had pointed out various problems and ways to resolve them to ensure success of the vision. -- more

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Mahathir - vision 2 Genting Highlands

The prime minister said all recommendations by the private sector would be carefully studied because some of them had been implemented, such as the government, effort to ensure that the people were well equipped with living skills.

The seminar participants had referred to manpower, and he said he told them that employers and employees should not adopt a confrontational attitude because the interests of both sides depended greatly on their efforts for the success of an industry.

Asked whether this meant that he wanted employers to have more meetings with employees so that they did not feel neglected, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was for this reason that he encouraged the setting up of in-house unions and not trade unions.

+With in-house unions, an employee will realise that, his future is tied to the success of his company and will not, do anything detrimental to the company, t he said.

This situation was different from that in the case of a trade union which he said was more interested in its strength than the success of a company, and set employees' salaries at a level which could cause the company losses. -- more

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Mahathir - vision 3 (last,) Genting Highlands

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also said that the government was prepared to provide guidance in general to the private sector if it wanted to introduce management, ethics, as was proposed at the seminar.

He said it would be left to the private sector to instil the ethics, which among other things focused on the creation of a clean system of management, which did not concentrate only on short-term achievements and profits.

On the announced move by the United States' Food and Drug Administration to drop the +No Palm Oil, No Cholesterol+ label from all foodstuff produced in that country from next year, the prime minister said he welcomed it.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government had undertaken various efforts for a long time to nail all legations that palm oil was hazardous to health.

It was reported yesterday that the decision to drop the label was made last month. -- Bernama

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