

CNS4611

UGE 31-12 00246 EG030

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GOVT BALANCES MATERIALISTIC, SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, SAYS PM

Mahathir - New Year

(Embargo: For use after 9.30 pm today, Dec 31)

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91
KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 31 (Bernama) - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government always strived to balance materialistic and spiritual development while retaining positive values.

He said attempts to prevent the Muslims from striving to achieve the objectives of Vision 2020, allegedly because the vision is materialistic, must be regarded as attempts to perpetuate the backwardness and poverty of the Muslims.

+We must appreciate the importance of practising values and approaches compatible with the achievement of success,+ he said in his New Year message over RTM tonight.

It was for this reason that there were nations which were backward before but had now become developed; and likewise there were nations which were once developed, but which had now become decadent, he said.

+If we analyse this phenomena carefully we will find that the advancement or decadence of a nation is the result of the citizen's ethics and values,+ he added.

When a developed nation dropped its good ethical values, it would inevitably regress, he said, adding that on the other hand when good ethical values were imbibed by the citizens of backward nations, in a short space of time they would emerge as developed countries. This was true also for races or individuals, he said. -- more

♥31/12/16-28MST

CNS4624

U GE 31-12 00158 EG033.

aae

Mahathir - New Year 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia, which has been classified as a developing country, was capable of achieving developed country status if the people were willing to practise good work ethics and human values.

While work ethics could ensure the success of a nation, peace-and security also played an important role, he said.

+A nation or society will be safe and stable only if its people are moderate in character,+ he added.

He said that, in a multiracial country like Malaysia, there would be some who would be dissatisfied with the demands of others, and misunderstandings were therefore inevitable.

+If there is rationality and a sense of responsibility on the part of all, differences of opinion will not result in breaches of the peace. Instead, there will be a willingness to compromise,+ he said. -- more

♥31/12/16-40MST

CNS4638

U GE 31-12 00145 EG032

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Mahathir - New Year 3 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was not an exaggeration to say that those people who alleged that Vision 2020 was materialistic were, consciously or otherwise, conspiring with the enemies of Islam.

+Their hypocrisy becomes worse when they themselves benefit from the very development which they condemn,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said Vision 2020 aimed to balance materialistic and spiritual development as required by Islam.

If, by the year 2020, the ability and the living standards of the Muslims in Malaysia were still at the present level, their faith might be adversely affected, he said.

He said the government readily accepted criticism and was willing to act on any constructive suggestion in its effort to achieve the objectives of Vision 2020. -- more

♥31/12/16-53MST

CNS4642

U GE 31-12 00103 EC033

aae

Mahathir - New Year 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

+In fact, what the government has done is to formulate approaches based on suggestions from both within and outside the government,+ he added.

He said that on Jan 1, 1992, all Malaysians should make a resolution to succeed in the tasks entrusted to them so that the nation's performance in the second year of Vision 2020 continued to improve.

+Let us all, Malaysians from all races, strive hard and work together to build and develop this nation of ours,+ he said. -- Bernama

♥31/12/16-55MST

CNS4772

U GE 31-12 00127 EA070

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Mahathir - New Year 5 (last) Kuala Lumpur (reopens)

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, in his message, urged Malaysians to resolve to strengthen the country's political stability by taking up the challenges of Vision 2020.

+Let us be guided by Vision 2020 and make the necessary changes to adapt ourselves to a new era in the coming 30 years,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Ling, who is the Transport Minister, said there was no room for negativism or pessimism as the country headed for a new era of rapid economic growth and racial tolerance.

He described 1991 as the year of political stability and phenomenal economic growth for the country. -- Bernama

♥31/12/19-35MST