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MALAYSIA MANAGES ITS ECONOMY BETTER THAN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES  
Mahathir-economy

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JITRA, March 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is more successful in managing its economy than some European countries, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said the fact that Malaysia could do better than European countries in this respect probably sounded far-fetched to some but that was the reality.

He said this was made possible through prevailing peace and stability in the country.

+We are fortunate because the Malays and other communities in the country dislike confrontation, preferring to work together with one another and resolving differences in an amicable way,+ he said when speaking during the breaking of the fast at Masjid Kampung Melele, Tunjang, near here.

Also present was his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Ali.  
--more.

▼16/03/23-21MST

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Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should be thankful that prosperity prevailed in the country and there was no problem of unemployment.

Jobs were plentiful compared to the work force, compelling the country to recruit foreign workers to fill the vacancies, he said.

+With employers chasing after few workers, the wages will increase and so do benefits workers will receive,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the plight of the Muslim Rohingyas in Myanmar who were prosecuted in their own country, forced to flee and many died in the process, should serve as a reminder to Malaysians of how fortunate they were.

+They (Rohingyas) live in suffering and hardships and probably not able to perform their religious obligations like fasting like other Muslims,+ he said. --more.

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Dr Mahathir also explained the rationale behind Malaysia's move to embark on manufacturing industry when manufactured goods could be imported from developed countries like Japan, the United States and Europe.

+The reason is that we do not want to be dependent on anyone because if we do, we will ultimately be stepped upon,+ he said.

As such, he said Malaysia would continue to strive to move ahead to be able to compete with other developed countries in production of manufactured goods.

He strongly believed that Malaysia would one day be capable of building aeroplanes.

+Even today, we have started learning how to building aeroplanes, even though a small one, a two-seater,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir and his wife later returned to Kuala Lumpur onboard a government executive jet. --Bernama.