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MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD

Mahathir - economy

MELAKA, April 15⁹⁷ (Bernama) -- Malaysia's economic growth rate is the highest in the world, going by a recent World Bank report, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said Malaysia was the fastest developing country in Asean which was the fastest developing region in the world.

The country was far different from what it was in the past -- a small nation, poor and backward, he said when opening the +Graha Makmur+, the Melaka Historic City Municipal Council building in Air Keroh, here.

Dr Mahathir said the World Bank now referred to Malaysia as a model nation and that many foreign investors had come enquiring how the country had achieved intensive development.

He said that if scrutinised closely Malaysia should not have undergone intensive development because it had people of various races, religions, origins and cultures.

However, the system practised by Malaysia to develop the economy and set in place the foundations to reduce misunderstanding among the races had succeeded in bringing about prosperity and intensive development, he said.

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Mahathir - economy 2 (last) Melaka

+If in the past we had been subjected to criticism for the system we practice, today many are enquiring about that very system,+ he said.

~~He said many criticised the system practised in Malaysia.~~
The Prime Minister cited the example of civil strife which had led to disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia because the people of various races wanted to set up their own states.

Dr Mahathir said the people of Malaysia wanted prosperity, and this was evident in each general election when they chose the moderate parties which made up the Barisan Nasional.

+It is fortunate that they do not choose the extremist parties ... otherwise anything can happen,+ he said.

He said an extremist government would face problems and would resort to unreasonable actions. A moderate party could develop the nation, he added.

-- Bernama