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MAHATHIR TELLS EX-SERVICEMEN TO USE +COMBATIVE+ SPIRIT

Mahathir-spirit .

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SINTOK (KEDAH), May 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today ex-servicemen should use their +combative+ spirit, developed through years of fighting the nation's enemies, to seek out economic opportunities for their well-being and that of their families.

What was needed now was to switch the target, this time to grab opportunities to strengthen their economic position, he added.

With this approach, the Ex-servicemen's Association of Malaysia (ESAM) would be able to fulfil its objective of helping its members and their families to lead the kind of life enjoyed by government pensioners, he said.

Dr Mahathir was opening a national seminar on Vision 2020, organised by ESAM at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) here.

He said the spirit of self-reliance was the key to achieving the objectives of Vision 2020, to make Malaysia a developed nation. -- more

▼07/05/12-51MST

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Mahathir-spirit 2 Sintok (Kedah)

The government had all this while shown the way and provided the people with training facilities and opportunities for self-improvement in all fields, he added.

+As we march towards 2020, it is up to each individual to identify opportunities to be tapped,+ he said while expressing confidence that ex-servicemen were aware that such opportunities were increasing.

He said the noble values instilled in ex-servicemen could also be the foundation of success.

Many ex-servicemen who successfully ventured into business, industries and other fields did not have training in financial management or industrial administration, he said.

But self-discipline, determination and a sensitivity towards their career development finally brought them success, he added.

+With a strong spirit and self-discipline, they have overcome business problems without giving up and going bankrupt,+ he said. They were also quick to work towards recovery of their business and ventures. -- more

▼07/05/13-17MST

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Mahathir-spirit 3 (last) Sintok (Kedah)

Dr Mahathir said ex-servicemen in Malaysia were more fortunate than their counterparts elsewhere because their smaller number made it easier for the government to extend various types of aid to them.

A strong economy created ample opportunities for those willing and able and, as such, their welfare was not a problem that could not be resolved, he added;

The Prime Minister said the problem, faced by the association-was in securing for its members a living standard on par with the country's expanding economy:

As our country is stable and its economy robust, the generosity of, many people who feel indebted to ex-servicemen has made it possible for the good response towards the Warriors Fund, he said.

He said the government, through the Defence Ministry, would ensure that all servicemen were given adequate training prior to their retirement so that they were equipped with specific skills on leaving the armed forces.

This was being done because the government knew that their families would also suffer if they could not get jobs after retirement, he added. --
Bernama