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Mahathir-economy

NO SHORTCUT TO ECONOMIC SUCCESS SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8, (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Bumiputeras must be willing to tread the difficult path and take time to be economically successful.

He said there was no shortcut to that goal and that they had to work hard by changing their work culture and adopting good values practised by communities which enjoyed success.

Winding up debate at the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here, he said that although it was difficult it could be achieved, as had been proven by the Japanese, Koreans and Chinese.

He said that over the last 35 years, the government had introduced various ways to resolve the economic problems of the Bumiputeras but not all the problems could be overcome.

The government assistance was extended in many ways including issuing of import permits (AP), setting up of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, giving of scholarships and providing quota on entry of Bumiputeras into local universities, he said. -- more

▼08/11/19-44MST

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"We have tried out various ways but up to now we are unable to achieve a balance between the Bumiputera and non-Bumiputera economies," he said.

According to him, the national car manufacturer, Proton, was the best example of a difficult project which Malaysians had turned into a success.

Dr Mahathir attributed Proton's success to the workers' willingness to adopt the work ethics of the Japanese.

Therefore, he said, the Bumiputeras should change their approach because government assistance such as issuing of APs would not resolve their problem.

He also drew the attention of the delegates to a report of the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) which showed that equity participation in several companies given to Bumiputeras had been transferred to non-Bumiputeras. -- more

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On suggestions by several delegates that the government provide everything to Umno members, Dr Mahathir said Umno members should share with other communities and non-members of the party because Umno's success in administering the country was also due to the support of these people.

He also corrected the perception of Umno members' of the contribution of government officers in the administration of the country by explaining that they had implemented government policies and decisions well.

Dr Mahathir praised delegates for the substance of their speeches which he said were well researched such as that by Datuk Dr Afiffuddin Omar of Kedah, and added that he hoped to see more speeches of that nature in the future. -- Bernama ,

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