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Mahathir-business

WORK TOWARDS SUCCESS, PM ADVISES BUMIPUTERA BUSINESSMEN

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JOHOR BA HARU, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight advised Bumiputera businessmen to continue to work hard as there was no shortcut to success.

They would also have to learn from past experiences, he said when speaking at a dinner organised by the Johor Malay Chambers of Commerce and Industry here.

He said Malay businessmen who had failed to succeed should review their past performances and indentify weaknesses which contributed to their failures.

+There may have been something in us which prevented us from being successful. We can't just solve the problem by blaming others,+ he added.

He also pointed out that even if they did not achieve success in their lifetime, their children and grandchildren might benefit from their efforts in the future. -- more

▼17/12/00-15MST

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He said the government had implemented many plans in the past 35 years to develop the Malay business community but it was clear that the objectives had not achieved the desired level.

He said that at the end of the New Economic Policy (NEP), Malays held only 20 per cent of economic equity pie instead of the targetted 30 per cent and even this was obtained with government's help.

+Nevertheless, we can be proud of the fact that our share increased from one per cent to 20 per cent. But still, we must realise that the target has not been reached yet,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said that if bumiputera businessmen accepted reality, then they would not be afraid to admit their mistakes.

He also said Malaysia had achieved international recognition for excelling in many fields and for being a pioneer in others. --more

▼17/12/00-21MST

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+In privatisation, for instance, we achieved success ahead of even the developed countries,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir also said he and the cabinet were studying recommendations made by the recent Third Bumiputra Economic Congress with a view of implementing some of them.

The government would also be promoting the franchise concept of business and hoped that newly-established Malay businessmen would receive it favourably for their own benefit, he said. -- Bernama

▼17/12/00-30MST