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MAHATHIR SAYS NDP CREATES FAIR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Mahathir-NDP

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- The Chinese community should accept with a positive attitude government's efforts to help the Bumiputeras in commerce and industry, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the objectives of the National Development Policy (NDP) were to speed up economic growth apart from creating fair opportunities for everyone.

+This is the only suitable way to ensure stability and national unity in the future,+ he said when opening the second Malaysian Chinese Economic Congress on the theme +National Development Towards Vision 2020+ here.

Dr Mahathir said consistient with the NDP, the government would continue to help the Bumiputeras to bring them to par with non-Bumiputeras in commerce and industry.

He added: +The government wants to create a Bumiputera commercial and industrial community that is resourceful, competitive, dynamic and progressive at par with other communities so that they too can contribute effectively towards the realisation of Vision 2020 objectives.+ -- more

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+I hope the Chinese community will not mistake this as an injustice to them.+

He said they should instead accept it in a positive way as an effort towards political stability for the good of the country in the long run and, as such, give their co-operation to ensure its success.

+The country's rapid economic growth provides many opportunities. No one stands to loose if these opportunities are distributed to balance development of the communities in Malaysia,+ he added

He hoped the two-day congress, organised by the Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, would discuss ways of enhancing joint ventures between the Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras.

Dr Mahathir said the Chinese community should enhance joint ventures between Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras because it was an effective way to achieve economic integration.

Such interaction would also wipe out suspicions between the two parties and reduce deep racial sentiments. -- more

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He added: +The Malays and Bumiputeras should use such joint ventures to learn the business, not to get rich quick.

+The Chinese, on the other hand, should regard their Malay partners as equal and real partners, not merely a front to obtain government assistance.+

Dr Mahathir said lasting economic development in a multi-racial country like Malaysia could not be based entirely on economic factors.

It should be viewed in the context of nation building where its success would be measured in how far it could contribute towards national development, he added.

+Only with economic justice can we achieve fully the objectives of Vision 2020,+ he said. -- more

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Dr Mahathir also said the spirit of co-operation and tolerance among the communities served as the foundation and prerequisite for achieving objectives of Vision 2020 and survival of Malaysia as an independent nation.

The spirit of co-operation and tolerance were important because they could guarantee stability and progress of the nation, he added.

+We've seen how other nations crumble as a result of self interest of their respective communities without total regard for the interests of others and the nation as a whole,+ he added.

He said such selfish attitude would not benefit anyone and should never be practised in a country like Malaysia which was trying to attain rapid development after lagging so far behind other countries.

If the growth rate of more than eight per cent attained since 1988 could be sustained, Malaysia's hope of becoming a developed country by the year 2020 would be bright indeed, he added. -- Bernama

▼18/08/11-15MST