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Mahathir-Books  
MALAYSIA'S INDUSTRIALISATION. WISE CHOICE SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Malaysia made a wise choice by opting for industrialisation rather than continue to solely depend on commodities.

He said had Malaysia still been relying on commodities such as tin and rubber, obviously it would not be able to progress as it did now.

"We have made a wise choice when we switched to industrialisation. Just imagine what will happen to us today if we continue depending on tin and rubber," he said launching the books "Dealing With The Malaysian Civil Service" and "Guidelines On Client's Charter" here.

He said the government was aware of the pitfalls it would have to face if it were to continue to rely on commodities given their vulnerability to international market manipulation.

As such, he said, the government's decision to concentrate on industrialisation was a wise move considering the uncertainty of commodity prices and the potentials of making Malaysia an industrialised nation.--  
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Dr Mahathir said the country would stick to this wise decision further to realise the national objective of attaining developed-nation status by 2020.

He said although this would be a difficult task, the government was confident that with the close cooperation between the public and private sectors and the involvement of all levels of its people, Malaysia would be able to realise the objective.

"There are so many interpretations of the figures 2020. But the government is confident that the objective of making Malaysia a developed nation by 2020 can be realised," he said.

On the Malaysia Incorporated Policy, the Prime Minister said it was the outcome of the government's "Look East Policy" launched a decade ago.

He said the policy was similar to the "Japan Incorporated Policy" which stressed on close cooperation between the public and private sectors in nation-building. -- more

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Dr Mahathir said at first the government was apprehensive that close cooperation between its officers and the private sector could contribute to malpractice.

However, he said, after taking into account that malpractices could happen any time, the government decided to go ahead with the policy all the same.

Now, he said, the policy was beginning to show success but there was still much to be done by the public and private sectors to ensure the policy's effectiveness.

Dr Mahathir said an efficient Malaysian civil service to assist the private sector was vital in ensuring the success of the policy.

An inefficient public service would only hamper efforts by the private sector to earn profits and directly reduce government revenue in the form of taxes, he said.-- more

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"In fact salaries for the public sector are being paid by taxes collected from the private sector. With less taxes, it will be quite difficult for the government to raise civil servants' pay.

"But if substantial taxes are collected, the civil service too can expect better pay," he said.

The Prime Minister said the country was fortunate to have a public service that easily adapted itself to changes and whose members were capable of carrying out government policies effectively.

Earlier the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said a special course was being planned to educate middle- and lower-level civil servants on the Malaysia Incorporated Policy.

The course was important because their understanding of the concept and the spirit of the policy was still unsatisfactory compared to that among the higher-level officers, he said.-- more

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Ahmad Sarji said the book "Dealing with the Malaysian Civil Service" has three parts.

The first outlines a detailed profile of each government ministry and department in terms of their objectives and functions.

The second provides a special guide for investors on business and industrial licences required and the investment incentives available.

Part three of the book provides a list of the chambers of commerce and professional bodies in the country.

Ahmad Sarji said the "Guidelines on Client's Charter" assures clients that quality service would be provided by all government agencies.

The assurance serves as a written agreement between the two parties, he said.-- Bernama

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