

CNS8739

R GE 21-07 00184 RB380

aae

Mahathir-wealth

PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE IDEAS TO EXPLOIT NATURAL RESOURCES, SAYS DR M
bm

93
IPOH, July 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight that Malaysia needs people who have ideas and are efficient, bright and honest to exploit its resources to develop the country.

The Prime Minister said although peace was a key factor for development, the aspect of human resource development should also be given emphasis to achieve progress.

"We need groups like administrators who are efficient and honest and have ideas as well as a brilliant private sector which has ideas to develop the country's economy," he said at a dinner here in conjunction with his two-day official visit to Perak.

A country's richness in natural resources was a plus but it needed people who have ideas to turn these resources into tangible benefits, he said.

Dr Mahathir said if Malaysia had continued to depend on natural resources like tin it would have become poor because of the price crash suffered by this commodity. -- more

▼21/07/23-35MST

CNS8742

R GE 21-07 00166 RB381

aae

Mahathir-wealth 2 Ipoh

"But thank God we had shifted to industrial development before the tin market fell," he said.

Due to foresight and good cooperation between the administrators and private sector under the "Malaysia Incorporated" concept, Malaysia had succeeded in establishing an industrial sector which kept it going when the tin prices dropped, he said.

He said the people should not be shackled by the belief that they had to continue depending on natural resources as this would cause them and the country to be left behind.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia could still succeed without natural resources as long as the people were moderate in their thinking, good to each other and acted in beneficial ways.

It was better to concentrate on the wealth that could be distributed among the people than to focus on the limited natural resources which would eventually cause the people to fight among themselves, he said. -- more

▼21/07/23-48MST

CNS8744

R GE 21-07 00140 EB382

aae

Mahathir-wealth 3 Ipoh

Dr. Mahathir said the people should preserve the racial harmony which had brought development to the country and led to the setting up of a multi-racial government.

He warned the people against complacency, saying that this success did not come easy but was achieved with much effort.

Malaysia's success in uniting the people of various races towards development had fascinated other countries and made Malaysia well-known internationally, he said.

"We should be humble and remember that carelessness in our actions will make it easier for certain parties to destroy this country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the fact was that if the people did not work the success being enjoyed now would disappear as had happened to countries which were empires before. -- more

▼21/07/23-58MST

CNS8746

R GE 22-07 00107 EB383

aae

Mahathir-wealth 4 (last) Ipoh

He said the government aspired to produce a morally strong and developed society by 2020.

The government's aims under the Vision 2020 were reasonable objectives to lay the foundation for the coming generation's progress, he said.

The vision was not for the well-being of the present generation but to ensure the country's future and the coming generation's progress, he said.

He urged the people to continue to strive hard and not to create problem as "others will not respect us if we are not successful." --

Bernamea

MUS JO YBY