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Mahathir-leaders

PICK RESPONSIBLE LEADERS, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 7, (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said it is crucial that the people choose men with the vision to improve their lot as their leaders.

Opening the 40th MIC general assembly here, he said the people should pick representatives and leaders from among responsible, sincere and capable men.

"Leadership determines the success of a nation," he said.

"There was nothing worse for a country than having leaders lacking integrity and credibility, he said.

"Look at the countries which are backward despite having abundant natural resources and efficient and hardworking people. It is all because their leaders practise the wrong ideology and approach," he said.-- more

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Mahathir-leaders 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir cited the misfortunes of certain African and Latin American countries caused by selfish leaders who ignored the people's well-being and only cared about tightening their grip on power.

The Prime Minister, who recently visited China and Albania, cited these countries as being determined to achieve progress under new leaderships.

"Perhaps I'm not overstating that we are very fortunate here," he said comparing the situation at home with the economic and living conditions in the countries that he had visited.

Dr Mahathir said several leaders of these countries had acknowledged Malaysia's success in tackling economic, political and social problems.

"They felt that we are fortunate that our country is not only peaceful and stable but has recorded encouraging economic growth while other countries including the developed ones face recession," he said.-- more

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He said democracy in Malaysia was going on well despite its detractors.

As such, it was crucial that the people choose leaders who are responsible, capable, sincere and with the vision to improve the people's lot.

"The nation will suffer if we make a wrong choice or keep changing leaders for no reason or only for the interests of certain individuals," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is the Barisan Nasional chairman, said the opposition could not team up effectively because the DAP and PAS were always demanding for special treatment and insisting that one was more important than the other.

On the contrary, he said, in the BN all its component parties are equal and cooperative on the basis of mutual respect, he said.-- more

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"MIC may be a small party compared to Umno but to the BN, the MIC is equally important," Dr Mahathir said in the presence of the other BN component parties attending the opening.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that the MIC was now solidly united, stable and strong.

The MIC was increasingly being accepted by the Indian community as evident from their response to its activities, said the Prime Minister.--

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