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Mahathir-Merdeka

NATION FACES NEW CHALLENGES, SAYS MAHATHIR

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KUCHING, Aug.30 (Bernama) -- While the people can justly take pride in the country's achievements over the last 36 years of independence, they now have to redoubled efforts to face the new challenges of the future, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says.

They have to face new challenges to make Malaysia a developed country by the year 2020, he added.

To achieve that objective, all the people must be united and galvanise efforts to continue to bring greater development to the country, he said in his message in a souvenir programme published in conjunction with the National Day celebrations being held here tomorrow.

"The people's energy must be united and developed totally and not only in the area of knowledge but also spirit, character and attitude," he added.

He also called on the people to give priority to their common interest while practicing noble values as well as discarding the passive attitude of depending solely on the government to create a just society. -- more

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Mahathir-Merdeka 2 (last) Kuching

"If, previously, independence was the main factor of unity for the multi-racial, multi-religious people, now Vision 2020 must stimulate us to enhance unity and co-operation," he said.

In his message, Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said the choice of Sarawak to host this year's national-level celebrations was a great honour for the state.

While the people of Sarawak celebrate 30 years of independence through Malaysia, the people from the rest of the country who visited Sarawak could see the state's progress as a result of the government's politics of development.

Taib also said the politics of development would continue to form the foundation of the government in efforts to prepare the people for the year 2020. -- Bernama

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