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Mahathir-rich

DON'T BE ENVIOUS OF THE RICH, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

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JITRA, Sept 23 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people need not be envious of the rich because they can also benefit from the wealth through the taxes collected by the government.

"We need people who are good at making money, the more their money the more taxes they pay to the government," he said when winding up the Kubang Pasu Umno Umno divisional delegates meeting, here.

Dr Mahathir, who is the division head, said that if there were no rich people it would be impossible for the government to provide the various amenities for the people.

Earlier, he said Umno members had asked for assistance and allocations for various purposes like building roads and mosques through the delegates meetings and the allocations had increased.

Dr Mahathir said the people also need not be angry over the abundance of golf courses because although the rich spent their money playing golf, the people would also benefit from the money they spent on food and drinks and the construction of golf also required land and other things. -- more

KHY JK

▼23/09/21-48MST

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He said that in Langkawi the land price had spiralled because of requests to build hotels and the hotel operators could in turn charge their guests high prices.

"Because of these changes, we can also benefit," he added.

He said the government had provided loans for the poor to buy Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) shares but now the not-so-poor were envious.

He said he had visited many places in the world but had yet to find a government which pampered for its people like in Malaysia.

Mahathir also said the Umno supreme council would discuss enabling working women to vote by post in the general election.

What was important was that they register so that they could vote in the election, he said when replying to a motion by the Wanita wing asking the government to study ways to enable working women to cast their votes.

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The prime minister said that to ensure that they were not deprived of their right to vote, they should be allowed not only to leave their workplace to cast their votes but also to vote through the post.

He said: "We have made many changes to facilitate the registration of voters but there are still people not doing so and we are disappointed when people find themselves unable to vote on polling day because their names are not in the register."

On the Youth wing's motion that the government act to control private education in the country, he said he would forward the motion to the relevant parties.

The motion also called on the government to implement twinning programmes at local universities so that more people would have a chance to have tertiary education.

The Youth wing also expressed concern that private colleges in the country were giving priority to English which it said was against the National Education Policy. -- more

AMJ JK

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Dr Mahathir said: "We must learn other languages to acquire knowledge and the government spends RM3 billion a year to send students for further education overseas.

He said the government also constantly reviewed the courses of the private colleges and ensured that there were courses in Bahasa Malaysia.

The government was also working to increase the twinning programmes between the local and foreign universities to enable more students to acquire education, he added. -- Bernama

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