

CNS4398

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Mahathir-vision (with pix)

NATION MUST PROGRESS TO BE INDEPENDENT OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, SAYS DR

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JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia must pursue progress to be independent of the developed countries attempting to force it to dance to their tune.

The prime minister said there was no way the developed countries were going to colonise Malaysia again but warned that they might restrict the growth of the country if it remained undeveloped.

Therefore, all the people should not be satisfied with the progress achieved thus far and should strive for development in the various sectors in line with Vision 2020, he said at a Johor-level function in appreciation of Vision 2020.

"If we do not strive for progress, we will be left behind and may be pressured by the developed countries which are envious of the peace and comfort we enjoy.

"There is no way they can colonise us again but they can do so indirectly by restricting our growth" he said. -- more

OM MKO MGN

▼11/10/12-40MST

CNS4410

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Mahathir-vision 2 Johor Baharu

Dr Mahathir said it must be realised that several countries, despite having gained independence, were reeling under the pressure of developed countries which forced them to toe the line.

"This is because these countries are undeveloped and therefore are forced to seek aid from the developed countries which then pressure them into submitting to their demands," he said.

The prime minister said Malaysia was at liberty to voice its views because it was not dependent on the assistance and support of others.

"This is very important to us because it means we are able to maintain our integrity. What is the use of being independent if you have to bow to the demands of others?" he asked.

Dr Mahathir said the nation and people should strive hard to make the country a developed one by the year 2020 to ensure that it is strong and rich.

"A rich country will be better able to safeguard itself and even provide assistance to others," he said. -- more

OM MKO MGN

▼11/10/12-57MST

CNS4426

U GE 11-10 00163 EA885

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Mahathir-vision 3 Johor Baharu

The prime minister said Malaysia was unable to offer complete protection to Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina because Malaysia was not a super or moderate power but only a developing nation.

"We can send our soldiers there but we cannot offer complete protection because we are not a super or moderate power," he said.

He reminded the people that a nation would be condemned if it was incapable of protecting itself in the various sectors such as knowledge, science and technology and manufacturing.

The prime minister said pursuing progress did not mean emulating everything from the developed countries because not everything was good.

"Some developed countries were faced with economic and moral degradation. Some are unable to compete with developing countries in the market and in a few countries some of the people no longer hold to their religions," he said. -- more

OM MKO MGN

▼11/10/13-09MST

CNS4435

U GE 11-10 00107 EA886

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Mahathir-vision 4 (last) Johor Baharu

He also said that 50 per cent of teenagers in the United Kingdom were dadah addicts and they no longer held to the family system because they did not believe in marriage.

Dr Mahathir said the development Malaysia wanted to achieve was of a country fully disciplined with the people holding on to good moral values and their religions.

Other than that, he said, the people should also be capable in technology and industry and be able to compete in the various fields internationally. -- Bernama

OM MKO MGN

▼11/10/13-18MST