

CNS8711

R PE 04-11, 00223 EB801

aae

Mahathir-success

DO NOT DENY UMNO'S ROLE IN SUCCESS OF MALAYS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

bm

93

0

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the success of the Malays and bumiputeras in various fields is undeniably the success of Umno.

He said the Malays and bumiputeras, who were now successful scientists, corporate figures and academicians and were products of the struggle of Umno and the government led by Umno although some might say it was the responsibility of the government anyway.

"Many governments not only do not help groups that are lagging in society but are also unsuccessful in developing their countries," he said when opening the Umno general assembly at Dewan Merdeka of the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here.

The prime minister said such a situation was also experienced by developed nations and their inability had resulted in not many governments being able to resolve their problems and that of their people.

Dr Mahathir said the majority of the Malays and bumiputeras who had been successful were grateful but there were still some who felt that the New Economic Policy (NEP) only benefitted a handful of Malays when they themselves were the Malays who had benefitted. -- more

JO MTA JK

04/11/13-59MST

CNS8716

R PB 04-11 00209 EB802

aae

Mahathir-success 2 Kuala Lumpur

He said that as such, noone could charge that they did not benefit from the NRP or the government's privatisation policy. Those unable to submit tenders or take over companies or privatised government departments could benefit through buying of shares, either meant specifically for employees or through the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

The prime minister said noone should be suspicious those who could get directly involved in the privatisation policy.

If it appeared that those who got the opportunities are those close to government leaders, it was because the government was deliberately being close to talented entrepreneurs as they could help the government make a success of its programmes, he said.

"There are many more who are close to ministers but did not get anything. The criterion used is ability, not family ties or friendship," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that in any society there would always be those who were poor "as it is not possible to create a society where everyone is rich" and even if such a situation did come about all services and goods would be expensive and not affordable to all. -- more

JO MTA JK

04/11/14-02MST

R PE 04-11 00213 EB803

aae

Mahathir--success 3 Kuala Lumpur

He stressed that this was not the first time he was speaking on poverty and wealth as "there are Malays who are prepared to criticise government policies formulated to help the Malays just because they are easily influenced by jealousy and hatred for those better off than themselves."

"There is nothing more frustrating to those who formulate policies and plans to help the Malays and Bumiputeras, than to hear the Malays themselves criticise policies and efforts aimed at helping them," he said, adding that those who criticised the policies had not come up with alternatives.

He regretted that the critics not only disliked to see the Malays being poor but also did not want the Malays to be rich.

On the role of workers in national development, the prime minister said the method used in the West like "test of strength" through industrial action was a manifestation of the shallowness of Western culture which should not be emulated in Malaysia.

The workers should have faith in the Barisan Nasional (BN) government to fulfil its promises, he said, adding that even if the promises were not made, they would be met. -- more

JO MTA JK

▼04/11/14-06MST

R PE 04-11 00136 EB804

aae

Mahathir--success 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

"This government was also elected by the workers. It is not possible that the millions of votes that the BN secured all came from the towkays," he said, adding that all strata of society would enjoy reasonable benefits if the BN continued to rule.

Dr Mahathir was also thankful that Malaysia did not depend on foreign assistance and hand-outs as this, to some extent, gave the country the freedom to voice its opinions on controversial issues at the international level.

On Malaysia's aspiration to be a developed nation, he said that if the objective was achieved, "we will no longer be easily pressured by the world powers in the political, economic or social sphere." -- Bernama

JO MTA JK

▼04/11/14-06MST