

▼08/02/16-45MST

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Mahathir-Paradigm (With pix)

M'SIA HAS POTENTIAL TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS THROUGH NEW THINKING

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 8 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia possessed the potential to become a great nation through an era of new thinking that was unfettered by self-imposed limitations.

The Prime Minister said everyone must break free of their self-imposed fetters because the country as a whole could attain better progress than what was achieved so far.

"In fact, there is no limitation to what we can do so long as we can break through the psychological barrier and build a new paradigm," he said at a seminar on "Dealing with the Challenges of Vision 2020: Towards creating a new Paradigm in Public Service" organised by the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) here.

"Only after we have broken through this mental barrier, can success be achieved and to do this we must set our targets higher in order for greater efforts to be made," he said.

In this regard, he called on all sectors, especially administrators, to have confidence in their ability to succeed by studying what had been done and analyse the success to think up ways of doing better. -- more

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Mahathir-Paradigm 2 Kuala Lumpur

In this connection, he was grateful that everyone in public administration were making constant and sincere efforts to increase capabilities towards contributing to national development to achieve the objective of becoming a developed nation.

He said: "Today, the focus is on expanding the paradigm because if we believe we can only achieve a certain limit, that by itself would restrict our true capability.

"As a nation we are keen to change this paradigm. We want to change the boundaries that limit national development."

The prevailing situation, perpetuated by the colonialists, was no longer suitable today, he added.

Dr Mahathir expressed pride in the late Tunku Abdul Rahman and late Datuk Onn Jaafar who broke free of the paradigm set by the colonialists by fighting for independence.

He was also proud that Malaysia was able to achieve a level of growth that had never been recorded under the rule of the country's colonial masters who even doubted the Malay leaders' ability to steer the country towards success. -- more

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Mahathir-Paradigm 3 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said all public servants must be willing to continuously assess their work so that corrective measures could be taken where necessary.

"It can be done. It is not too late. If we take the wrong step, we take one step backward, to move to another direction," he added.

He said expertise could be achieved through performing a job over and over again. "We can achieve greater heights simply by striving over and over again. You fail, you do it again," he added.

He said although he was aware public servants should be amply compensated for their work, a better reward was the satisfaction they derived from their achievements.

Commending the public service for its professionalism, he said his job of administering and developing the country was made easier with their full cooperation:

Dr Mahathir said the 12-point resolution adopted at the two-day seminar, presented by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid was worth attention. -- more

JO LDB

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Mahathir-Paradigm 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

He said a person could not close his mind to a challenge and must face it without bias and an open mind.

In this context, he related how the government's proposal to set up the Heavy Industries Corporation of Malaysia (Hicom) not only raised doubts about its capability among the people but even among several Cabinet ministers.

"But today, they scramble to obtain forms so much so this has to be done at Stadium Merdeka," he said, referring to the overwhelming response by the public to the Hicom public share issue.

After his 40-minute speech, Dr Mahathir held an hour-long closed door dialogue with senior public service officers. -- Bernama

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