

Malaysians urged to help curb accidents, calamities, scourges

PM: Be more disciplined

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on Malaysians to be more disciplined and responsible to help curb accidents, calamities and the various scourges.

Dr Mahathir, in his National Day message, said all disasters were man-made and it was up to Malaysians to prevent such incidents.

The Prime Minister's address was telecast live over RTM 1 tonight in conjunction with the nation's 37th year of independence.

"If we were to curb the menace of dadah addiction, prevent accidents and fires that occur frequently, overcome the problems of loafing, building collapses, environmental pollution and other calamities, the Government's call and measures it has undertaken should be well received by the people."

Dr Mahathir said many road accidents were the result of motorists not abiding by traffic regulations.

The collapse of buildings, fires, abuse of dadah, the spread of AIDs and environmental pollution were all caused by those who were not necessarily regarded as criminals.

schools, clinics, roads and other services which were provided free or almost free of charge.

"On the other hand if we build a culture of cautiousness and do not act in haste, then accidents can be greatly reduced without incurring any expenditure.

"As a matter of fact, in other countries with higher number of vehicles the accident rate is not as high as that in Malaysia. The reason is their people are able to exercise greater self-control."

Dr Mahathir said it was clear that without the support of the people, efforts to improve the performance of the people and country could not succeed.

He added that the Government in its bid to create a more contented society had taken various steps to eradicate unhealthy developments and these should be welcomed by the people as they were also responsible for such developments.

Although the Government had introduced various legislations and had the machinery to enforce the laws to prevent unhealthy developments, Dr Mahathir said such incidents continued to occur and were even

Dr Mahathir said whether the perpetrators had criminal intent or otherwise, the result had the usual effect and imposing punishment after an accident was of no consequence.

"What is required is prevention and the most effective prevention is that which we undertake ourselves.

"Preventive measures undertaken by the Government are not only limited in their results but costs are also high."

Dr Mahathir said the Government might be able to reduce the number of accidents by deploying more police personnel to ensure motorists do not speed or overtake recklessly but the costs incurred would be very high and ultimately the people would have to bear the burden.

He said if the Government's efforts were used for such purposes, then there would be no allocations for

on the increase.

He said it was clear that the Government and legislation itself would not be able to eradicate any untoward incident and added that if all that was required was legislation and enforcement to curb crime, then crime would long have been checked.

"The reality is that criminals and those who are disloyal can always bend the laws at any time."

Dr Mahathir said with the co-operation of the people, the Government had succeeded in developing the country and that Malaysia was now among the most progressive of developing nations.

The standard of living of the people had risen and their average income had also increased.

"In the field of development no one can deny that

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Dr M: We can achieve even greater progress

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Malaysia has achieved extraordinary success. Among developing nations, we are in the forefront.

"Our progress has reached a level where international agencies are now questioning whether we should be regarded as a developing country or otherwise."

He added that even if one considered the matter superficially, the country's success was not the result of the policies and the actions of the Government alone.

Dr Mahathir said if it were not for the positive response of the people, investors, managements and workers, then it was evident the country would not be able to achieve the progress it had.

"The positive response, efforts and attitude of the people towards the Government's policies and incentives have enabled us to achieve our development targets.

"We are also confident that we can achieve even greater progress towards attaining industrialised nation status by 2020 as the people have positively welcomed the vision of the Government."

He added that the industrialised nation status for Malaysia envisaged in Vision 2020 was not based on Western trends which were synonymous with the scourge of dadah, AIDS, decline in morality, laziness and other ill effects which were now evident.

Dr Mahathir said the industrialised nation status as envisaged in Vision 2020 would ensure a more contented nation and one that was protected from a deterioration of civilisation and its values.

"To ensure this we have to build the right culture from now. The National Day we are celebrating is a timely occasion for us to make a resolution that we will not only strive to grab the opportunities to achieve greater progress and glory but also give up those habits which are no longer beneficial to us."

Dr Mahathir added that whatever happened, the nation would not forget the sacrifices made by its heroes in defending the country's security and the honour of the people.

He said just as they were able to sacrifice their lives for the nation, the people should also prove that they were worth defending.