

Senators' feedback needed for progress, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said senators should continue to provide constructive views and support the Government in its efforts to develop the country.

He said their views and criticisms would be beneficial in gauging the success of government policies and programmes.

He also said that it was not true that the Dewan Negara had no role to play just because its members were appointed.

"The role of members of the Dewan Negara is to give their views in the Government's law formulation process," he said at a dinner held in his honour by the Malaysian Senators Club at the Dynasty Hotel tonight.

He said the views and criticisms aired by the senators would have considerable influence if they had strong bases and were presented in a proper manner.

Dr Mahathir said the views coming from the Dewan Negara would be given due attention by the ministers, adding that he too always monitored the goings on in the Upper House although he was never present during its sittings.

The Prime Minister also reminded future leaders to continue to give priority to racial unity and stability of the nation.

He said they had to ensure that the people and the country would not be humiliated like what had happened during the colonial era.

He said everybody had to work hard to ensure progress towards achieving Vision 2020.

Dr Mahathir said he was proud to be given the opportunity and trust to lead the country for about 14 years now and had introduced several policies such as the privatisation policy and the Malaysia Incorporated concept.

Dr Mahathir said the policies would not have been a success without the cooperation of the relevant parties and the people as it would be impossible to do everything alone.

He was thankful that the people was ever willing to extend their cooperation for the development of the country.

Dr Mahathir was accompanied by Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Also present were Dewan Negara president G. Vadiveloo, organising committee chairman Rahim Baba, Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr Yusof Nor and Deputy Primary Industries Minister Datuk Tengku Mahmud Mansor.