

Dr M: Vision is our way to succeed

By
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KANGAR, Fri. — Malaysia needs a government with vision, which can plan well and execute these plans effectively, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said: "We have Vision 2020 and we are confident we can achieve it.

"Without a vision, everyone would go his or her separate way but with a vision, we can all pool resources and put our shoulder together to the task at hand to achieve success," he said.

The election of a government which is responsible and pragmatic, responsive to the people's needs, has vision, and is backed by the ability to implement projects is important as it could take Malaysia further on the road to progress and development.

Dr Mahathir said that the good things enjoyed by the people so far, including great economic growth, was because the people had in the past elected such a government.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a meet-the-people session at the just-completed RM26 million Kangar stadium. Also present was Menteri Besar Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh.

He said Malaysians have shown they could do great things if they have vision. Dr Mahathir said the people would lose if they did not elect a government which cared for them and which could continue to ensure they lived in peace and prosperity.

He said the people should compare how things were before and how they are today. During the colonial days, for instance, there was uneven development among the States with those having natural resources outdoing those without them.

Today, he said, there was much development and progress and the people were united.

"Take Perlis as an example. Perlis has made exceptional progress and this has happened under the Barisan Nasional Government, particularly under the leadership of Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid. I am confident that Perlis will continue to progress," he said to loud applause.

He continued: "If not for the system of governance practised by the BN, Perlis could not have progressed to a stage where it stands on the same level as other Malaysian States.

"The Federal Government collects revenue from all States. Those States which are richer contribute more in taxes and this money is distributed to the poorer States. We use taxes collected to help the poor and unfortunate and this system has worked well."

Dr Mahathir said the BN was constantly thinking of what more could be done for the people.

"We don't feel tired when talking about development or helping the people."

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People who appear religious may not be so, says PM

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Dr Mahathir also spoke about religion, saying that religion is not for exhibition and that form does not necessarily reflect substance.

He said: "Religion is not for exhibition. We have in Malaysia people who appear to be religious, based on the way they dress. But when we investigate, we find that they are not really so.

"There are people who are attired in dress which shows them to be religious or who follow religious teachings. But when they open their mouth, it is clear they don't practise Islam."

Dr Mahathir said these people were egoistic and arrogant.

"Islam does not want us to be arrogant. If you read the Quran, you will find verses which say God does not like arrogant people.

"These people who call themselves Parti Islam do not really practise Islam. They are arrogant and they slander others, they cast false and unfounded accusations at others. Their aim is to denigrate others to gain support for themselves.

"They never speak about the good achieved. They are not grateful for the fact that Malaysia is such a success and that it has peace and prosperity even though it is a multi-racial and multi-religious country."

Dr Mahathir and Menteri Besar Tan Sri Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh later joined other Muslims for prayers at the State mosque in Arau.