

31 JUL 1996

Mahathir-Success

COUNTRY'S SUCCESS NOT DUE TO MY EFFORTS ALONE, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the country's success should not be attributed to his efforts alone.

In reminding the people that attributing the country's achievements to a single person could lead to a personality cult, he said the successes being enjoyed by the people were actually the result of the cooperation and hardwork of all segments of society.

"I would not like to take the credit for myself for whatever happened," he said at a luncheon organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry here to mark his 15th year in office as Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia has reached its present stage of development mainly because of the strong foundation laid by the past leaders.

He said his job was to strengthen the foundation with the close cooperation of the Cabinet, state governments, public sector workers, local and foreign businessmen and the trade unions.

The Prime Minister said he was deeply grateful to people at the various levels for their cooperation, especially his Cabinet colleagues who had contributed a lot during his 15 years at the helm.

Dr Mahathir said although he sometimes disagreed with his colleagues' views, he still went along with them to see to the success of things that had been agreed to collectively.

"At times they agreed to do things which I did not agree to. But this is all right because sometimes they are right and sometimes I am right," he said to laughter from the 1,000 luncheon guests who included local corporate figures and several ministers.

Dr Mahathir said he was also grateful to the state governments, public and private sector members, local and foreign investors and trade unions for their immense contributions to the country's rapid economic growth.

He hoped they would continue to extend similar cooperation to the next Prime Minister to ensure that Malaysia could achieve its target of becoming a developed country by the year 2020.

Earlier, National Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad said the local private sector greatly respects and appreciates the dynamic leadership and vision shown by Dr Mahathir the past 15 years.

He said the Prime Minister's determination and ingenuity in steering the country to greater heights have brought about a paradigm shift among the people to the extent that 15 years seemed a short time.

"Datuk Seri's leadership has injected new dynamism into the Malaysian private sector and contributed to the country's rapid economic growth which everyone can be proud of," he said.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail.

At the function, national literary award winner Datuk Dr Usman Awang read out a poem entitled "Kepada Pemimpin Perdana Dr Mahathir Mohamad (Sempena 15 Tahun Pentadbirannya)".

This was followed by the rendition of a song based on Dr Mahathir's poem entitled "Perjuangan Yang Belum Selesai" (The Unfinished Struggle).

The song, composed by Idris Mat Isa and Manan Ngah, was sung by Nurliza Nudin from the army's arts body. -- BERNAMA

AH YBY

