

08 AUG 1996

Mahathir-Electricity

DR M TELLS TNB TO LEARN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

KUCHING, Aug 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) to adopt the electricity distribution system of countries which seldom experienced power failures.

"We should not be shy to copy what is good and if others can get uninterrupted electricity supply, why can't we?" he said today.

It was difficult to accept a nationwide blackout, he said in an interview broadcast live over Radio Kenyalang (RK) in conjunction with his visit to the station here.

Dr Mahathir said other countries never experienced nationwide blackouts but only isolated power disruptions.

"We should learn and find out why nationwide power failures occurred in our country but not in other places," he said.

He was asked to comment on last Saturday's power failure which brought the whole of peninsular Malaysia to a virtual standstill for at least 12 hours.

During the half-hour interview, disc jockey Zainaldin Zainal asked Dr Mahathir a wide range of questions, including on the political situations in Sabah and Kelantan, corruption and Sarawak's economic growth.

On Sarawak, Dr Mahathir said its rapid economic growth was due to an efficient state administration and management which succeeded in attracting foreign investors.

"Investors will not come if we are not good in administering the state. That is why they did not want to go to Kelantan because they did not know how to deal with an inefficient government," he said.

On the other hand, Sarawak was developing rapidly and growth was not concentrated in Kuching but was spread out to other places including Mukah, Sibu, Miri and Bintulu, he said.

"But it's the reverse in Kelantan because they think a government does not need any ability and when they administer all sorts of defects emerge," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians, whether in the peninsula, Sabah or Sarawak, were capable of achieving development and keeping pace with the rapid growth being experienced in the country.

"What is required is only the desire to go for it and the determination to learn and, therefore, I believe I am not leaving anyone behind," he said.

On RK, Dr Mahathir hoped that its establishment would help strengthen the link between the people and the government.

"The people need to know developments throughout the country and this is very important for our country's development. With the presence of RK, the latest (information) can be known by the people."

RK, owned by Kristal Harta Sdn Bhd, is Sarawak's first private radio station. It began trial transmission on Aug 1 this year. -- BERNAMA

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