

13 APR 1996

Mahathir-Jayawaris

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES "JAYAWARIS" PROGRAMME

KUALA LUMPUR, April 13 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the people have no other alternative but to cooperate with the government to ensure that the nation's objective to attain developed nation status is not jeopardised by negative elements.

He said that eventhough many unpleasant examples could be seen in the developed nations, Malaysia was still determined to attain such status.

"What's important now is for the people and the government to jointly curb them so that a developed Malaysia will still have people with noble values," he said when launching the "Jayawaris" programme at the Pusat Islam here.

The Jayawaris programme is organised by the Civics Bureau in the Prime Minister's Department.

The programme is aimed at nurturing a society with deep interest in education as well as promoting the family institution to face current and future challenges as part of efforts to develop a dynamic and progressive nation in all aspects in line with Vision 2020.

Under the programme, various activities for human development as well as improvement of the socio-economic standard of the people have been planned.

Dr Mahathir said that if the negative values made the people reject the developed status, then the nation would continue to remain backward, facing various problems including oppression by people of developed nations.

It seemed that whatever choice was made, there would be negative effects, he said.

In this respect, the Prime Minister said Malaysia had to make a choice because it would not be sensible to do otherwise.

Malaysia had opted for progress but progress with commendable values, hindering negative values and moral decadence currently seen in the developed countries of the world, he said.

Dr Mahathir said these negative values were in fact could already be seen in Malaysia even though the country had not yet reached the status of a developed nation.

Citing "lepak" (loafing), "bohsia" and AIDS as examples, he said the number of those involved might be small but if remedial actions were not taken immediately, the problems could develop into something beyond control like that in developed countries.

The government was therefore forced to interfere in what was essentially a family problem to stop it through various measures including laws and regulations, not aimed at curtailing freedom of individuals but to protect the majority of the people from moral decadence, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the "Jayawaris" programme is one example of such measures, involving the participation of all not only parents and teachers.

He said that under the programe, the government would adopt a systematic approach to inculcate values acceptable to parents and young people.

Certainly, it would not be easy but the people and the government had no choice other than striving towards creating a family with greater sense of integrity than at present, he said. --Bernama

AH ABG