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Mahathir-Malays

MALAYS SHOULD NOT BE POOR IN RICH NATION, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Umno will continue with its struggles to ensure that Malays do not become poor in a country that is rich.

He said that all this while the 50-year-old party had succeeded in developing the country's economy without forgetting its obligations to look after the interests of the Malays and the bumiputeras.

"To develop the economy, it would be easier if we just ignore the problems of the Malays and let those who are more efficient in managing the economy to handle everything, to seek wealth and enrich the nation.

"But if we do that, we will become poor in a country that is rich and of course we do not want such a situation although the nation is independent," he said at the Umno 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here tonight.

The dinner was attended by about 11,000 invited guests who filled the Dewan Merdeka, Dewan Tun Razak, Dewan Tun Hussein Onn, Dewan Tun Dr Ismail and the PWTC lobby.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno President, said not many countries could achieve what Malaysia had managed to do, that is to carry out the dual responsibilities of developing the economy while at the same time promoting the interest of the bumiputeras.

"Umno's success is extraordinary, no other political party had been as successful as Umno," he said.

He reminded Umno members, particularly the younger generation, to be equipped with noble values to ensure the party continued to gain the support and respect of the people.

Umno Vice President Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also chairman of the dinner committee, described the turnout as a symbol of Umno's strength and solidarity.

At the dinner, Dr Mahathir and other top party leaders joined together in cutting the 50th anniversary cake with a kris.

The guests were later entertained to a cultural show. -- BERNAMA

AFY MAM AO