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Mahathir-Confidence

MALAYSIANS MUST HAVE CONFIDENCE TO BLAZE NEW TRAILS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10 (Bernama) -- Malaysians must have the confidence to blaze new trails and not be disheartened in the face of negative sentiments from certain parties, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Such sentiments had existed since the time the government implemented the national car project and developed Langkawi into a tourist destination and Labuan into an offshore financial centre, he said.

However, it had been proven that Malaysia had achieved many successes including in these projects, he said.

"If we are hardworking, we will achieve great success. What is important is that we try, we will not know if we don't try. It is like taking an examination, he said when performing the ground-breaking ceremony for the new government administrative complex in Putrajaya, near here.

He said that in terms of tourism, Malaysia had now attracted 7 million tourists compared with 2 million previously.

Dr Mahathir said he was happy that there were no delays in the Putrajaya project which was expected to be completed by 2000.

"You see me smile, it shows that I am happy. They (the developers) gave their assurance to complete it before 2000 because everything is under control," he said.

Putrajaya is a modern town centre, an intelligent city in a park which will serve as the federal government's administrative seat. It is being developed by Putrajaya Holdings as owner developer with three other parties while the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) is the project manager.

The prime minister said the government-owned project was left in the charge of a Petronas management team which would find the financial resources for the its development.

Asked whether he was satisfied with the development so far, he said could not deny that there were some constraints which were more administrative in nature.

Dr Mahathir said he had a chance to inspect the progress of the development of the complex, especially the building sites, including that for the Prime Minister's Department building and other relevant offices.

Putrajaya Holdings chairman Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Hussain said the prime minister's office would be among the first buildings to be completed and Dr Mahathir was expected to move to his new office in 2000. -- BERNAMA

ZAB JM JK