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Mahathir-Sabah

PM SURE SABAH CAN MATCH PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY OTHER MALAYSIANS

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told the Sabah people that they have the capability to match the progress made by Malaysians in other states.

The Prime Minister said there was no reason why they could not achieve progress as they are no less capable than Malaysians elsewhere.

"I am confident Sabah can (progress). What other Malaysians can do, the Sabah people also can. Don't believe it if there is anyone who says Sabah cannot (succeed)," he said when launching the "Malaysia Boleh, Sabah Boleh" (Malaysia Can, Sabah Can) campaign at the Likas Sports Complex here.

The campaign is to arouse in the Sabah people a sense of belief in their own capability to succeed after years of being left behind due to the state's political uncertainties.

Dr Mahathir said the important thing was to keep up their spirits to pursue progress and to keep on trying in the face of failure, until they gained the ability necessary to achieve success.

The Prime Minister said Sabah also has its professional manpower who could help the state succeed.

He said he had met professionals from Sabah while outside the country.

"I met at the University of Victoria in Vancouver a student from Sabah who was studying in a sophisticated engineering field. People like this student will return and help the state to develop," he said.

He said where a person originated was no obstacle to him becoming a professional.

Citing an example, he said a person from Kodiang in Kedah, a place viewed as backward in the peninsula, had become a pilot of a Boeing 747-400 aircraft.

"In the past, this town was really backward, so much so that others looked upon people from Kodiang as stupid. But now, he (the pilot) has proven that he can succeed. If even people from Kodiang can, what more people of Sabah," he said.

In the middle of his speech, Dr Mahathir suddenly burst out with the cry "We can do it" three times, to the loud cheers and applause of the 3,000 people present.

He said the nation could face any challenge successfully if it maintains a high morale and refuses to admit defeat, and instead strives to do it better than the developed countries.

Among Malaysia's successes, he said, is the national car industry which had grown rapidly and is now exporting.

He said other successes are the country's ability to practise a system of democracy that is effective and to use the system to achieve a high level of development.

Among those present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Chief Minister Datuk Yong Teck Lee, and state and federal ministers. -- BERNAMA

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