

19 AUG 1996

Mahathir-Cooperation

POLITICIANS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS REMINDED TO MAINTAIN COOPERATION

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed today urged politicians and government officers to continue cooperating to develop the country.

He said such cooperation was vital for the country to realise its objective of becoming a developed country one day to gain world respect.

"We must have confidence in our own ability, and if we can maintain the present political stability and sincerely want to develop our country, our race will become respected," he said.

Addressing a lunch gathering of political leaders and senior government officers, Dr Mahathir said the people of this country should be thankful for the blessings given them by God, including the beautiful beaches and lakes in Terengganu.

There were landlocked countries which had to send goods to another country through the territories of nations which were sometimes not friendly with them and blocked the passage of the goods, he said.

"We in Malaysia are fortunate because we have many assets which can be used to enrich and develop the country," Dr Mahathir said.

However, the wealth must be properly managed for it to benefit the people and the country, he said.

He said developed countries not only depended on their natural resources but were good at using the resources endowed upon them by God.

Dr Mahathir criticised people who preferred to sit back and envy the success of local entrepreneurs instead of working hard to emulate their achievements.

"Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli hails from a village in Kedah and used to walk four miles to school but now he owns CELCOM, MAS...", the Prime Minister said.

Later in the afternoon, Dr Mahathir closed the Piala Perdana badminton championship at Stadium Negeri here.

Thirteen teams from throughout the country took part in the meet organised by the Welfare Body of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti).

The Welfare Body of Wives of Selangor Elected Representatives (Balkis) emerged champion and Bakti the runner-up.

The Prime Minister presented the trophy to Balkis president Puan Sri Asbi Rohani Asnan. -- BERNAMA

SBJ YBY