

06 MAY 1996  
7MP-Reaction (Opposition)  
RAZALEIGH LAUDS 7MP

KUALA LUMPUR, May 6 (Bernama) -- Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) welcomes the Seventh Malaysia Plan (7MP) tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Dewan Rakyat here this afternoon.

"I think we should welcome it although problems will crop up from time to time," S46 President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah told reporters at the Parliament lobby.

"The 7MP can be accepted as satisfactory and I am satisfied that it will be of benefit to the rakyat."

He said one could not be completely satisfied because there were issues that should be resolved like corrupt practices which had affected the administration.

However, he refused to comment further because he would be taking part in the debate later.

"Overall, nobody can deny that the 6MP performed above expectation although not to the mark targetted under the plan," he added.

Razaleigh said he was happy with Dr Mahathir's admission of weaknesses which could could impair government's planning, especially the current account deficit and the influx of foreign workers.

He said the government was prepared to reduce its dependency on foreign workers and endeavouring to utilise available manpower in the country, either women or pensioners.

"The move by the government should reduce the number of foreign workers in the country during a definite time frame. This should be welcomed although I had raised this issue before," he added.

Meanwhile, DAP Socialist Youth head Lim Guan Eng said the eradication of corrupt practices ought to have been given priority in the 7MP.

"If the government is not serious in stamping out corruption, it will hamper economic development," he said. -- BERNAMA

ZAB ARA SK