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Mahathir-7MP

SEVEN PER CENT ANNUAL GROWTH HOPED UNDER 7MP

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the government hoped that the Seventh Malaysia Plan (7MP) launched recently would produce seven per cent annual growth for the country.

"In formulating the 7MP, it is not the government's intention to set too high a target growth," he said at a dinner organised by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) here, in conjunction with the launching of the nation's new five-year development plan.

Dr Mahathir was confident that if the country's economic growth remained at that level, the government's aspirations and objectives of Vision 2020 could be realised much earlier than targeted.

He said he was glad that to-date Malaysia had succeeded in implementing all the development projects planned.

"On behalf of the government, my congratulations to EPU for for an excellent job done in formulating the 7MP and other development programmes in the past," he said.

He said the government was proud with the EPU's performance and hoped that it would continue to study and review the development programmes to ensure their smooth implementation.

He said the EPU had already gained a global reputation through its briefings to foreign leaders who came to Malaysia and training assistance to their officers.

"Many countries having their own planning unit still want to follow Malaysia's example. This is reflected in their efficiency in planning development in their respective countries using our techniques," he said.

He said the success had turned Malaysia from a backward to a progressive, developing country.

The 7MP, like other development programmes before it, steered the nation's towards its objective of becoming a developed nation, he said.

"As a nation adopting an open market system, Malaysia actually can do without five-year development programme as implemented," he said.

Dr Mahathir said developed countries like New Zealand, Australia, Britain and United States did not have such a development programme, probably never had thought about it and believing that the country would continue to develop even without the support from the government.

"But Malaysia is a pragmatist country which can produce the results," he added.

During the function, Dr Mahathir presented excellent service awards to 17 EPU staff. Present was EPU Director-General Tan Sri Ali Abul Hassan Sulaiman. -- BERNAMA

ZAB ABG