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Mahathir-Thai

THAI COMMUNITY SHOULD ACTIVELY PURSUE KNOWLEDGE, SAYS PM

KANGAR, April 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Thai community in the country should be more active and aggressive in pursuing knowledge to ensure that they could improve their standard of living.

He said that with adequate knowledge and a high level of efficiency in specific fields, they would have a wider choice of jobs especially in the government service.

"The time has come for the Thai community to change for the better so that they could also enjoy the various opportunities available as a result of the nation's rapid development," he said at a gathering of about 50 leaders of the Thai community in Perlis and Kedah at a hotel here.

He said that the move taken by the government to appoint a senator to represent the Thai community was to ensure that the minority group was not left behind in the mainstream of development.

However, he said, the appointment of the senator did not mean that the government had neglected the other minority groups as a Singhalese and a Eurasian had also held the post.

He also called on them to forge closer ties with the other races in the country to promote national unity.

During a question and answer session, Dr Mahathir said that they should also take advantage of the rapid development of the tourism sector in Langkawi and the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT).

He was confident that with greater development in the IMT-GT region, those proficient in the Thai language could enjoy more economic opportunities.

Earlier, Senator Charern Intachat in his briefing on the proposed Thai Village Resort in Langkawi said that the project would be jointly undertaken by the Thai Village, Perlis Holdings and Business Focus Sdn Bhd.

The proposed project will cost RM30 million and covering a 10-ha site in Teluk Yu. -- Bernama

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