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Mahathir-Malays

THE MALAYS ARE NOW BRAVER SAYS DR.M

LANGKAWI, March 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Malays are now braver compared to several years back.

He said the Malays now dared to criticise about things that they were unhappy with.

"I see the Malays now are bold ... they are very good at criticising me but we must be bold in all matters," he told a news conference here.

"We must be bold in facing the rakyat at all levels, not only the top people but also those at the lower levels," he said.

Dr Mahathir disclosed this when asked to comment on the views expressed by Economic Advisor to the Government, Tun Daim Zainuddin that the Malays had lost their courage.

The former Finance Minister's views, which was published by a newspaper on March 10, among others said that the Malays were not given the opportunity to express their views.

The Prime Minister said that there was a possibility that some people measured one's courage based on how critical one was.

"I always criticise my subordinates but many dare not do so for fear of being unpopular," he said.

Asked whether he agreed with Daim's views, Dr Mahathir said: "I don't have to agree with everyone's views but I agree with what I say."

On the suggestion by Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabaruddin Chik that tourists on day-visits to the country were imposed levies, the Prime Minister said the matter needed careful study.

"We don't want a situation where tourists don't want to come anymore because they would be imposed the levy.

"It is better that they come and buy a can of drinks rather than not selling a can because tourists do not want to come at all because of the levy," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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