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ASEAN MUST NOT FAIL, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 24 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Asean must resolve not to fail.

"We must not fail," he said.

He said the future is indeed bright for the nine countries of Asean and they know what they must do collectively and individually.

"And we have the strength to do what is best for us and to defend ourselves. If we fail, we can blame no one but ourselves," he said when opening the 30th Asean Ministerial Meeting, here.

Dr Mahathir said there are roughly half a billion people in Asean now and while their per capita may be low, their total purchasing power is considerable.

"Besides, with their high growth rates, their economic clout must increase considerably," he said. -- BERNAMA

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