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Mahathir-Professionals

BUMI PROFESSIONALS REMINDED OF OBLIGATION TO SOCIETY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Bumiputera professionals should have the awareness and sense of indebtedness to serve society.

He said education and qualification were not enough to achieve higher objective if there were no sense of indebtedness and gratefulness for the opportunity given by the government and society.

"To achieve success, we must be more than that. What we need is the dedication and determination to achieve success for ourselves and for society for giving us the opportunity.

"If we don't have these feeling, we will not be able to fulfil the needs and aspirations of our people and country," he said when addressing the "Anak Sains MARA" (Ansara) dinner, here.

He said the Bumiputeras, who previously seemed to have no role in the country's economy, were currently playing important and influential role.

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysians were fortunate in the sense that efforts were constantly being made to help communities which lagged behind and this was seldom found in other countries.

"Today, the disparity between the communities is not that glaring. Previously yes, to the extent the we (Bumiputeras) were so far apart and seemed to have no role to play," he said.

In his speech entitled "Kumpulan Profesional Melayu Sebagai Teras Wawasan Negara", he said the professionals played an important role in forming a society's culture and in creating a middle class in society.

"This group plays an important role in determining the success or failure of a society. Even if there were an upper class in the society but not enough middle class, the society will not hold -- having only the head and the legs but not the trunk," he said.

He said that such was the importance attached to the middle class that the government had given emphasis to its existence as a precondition for development.

He said that although some might not like such classifications, the fact was that the middle class played an important role and contributed to the formation of a society's culture and success.

Dr Mahathir said that in general he was proud of the awareness shown by successful professionals of their obligations to society.

He said the ever developing professional field should serve as the foundation to the successful ones to review their contributions and the role they could play to bring progress to society and create opportunities for the future generation.

He also reminded the professionals not to get panic over the current economic crisis and depreciating currency but to discipline themselves in overcoming the problem.

Dr Mahathir also launched the Ansara Expert Group which would among others explore business opportunities in the various sectors for the Bumiputeras.

Also present were Ansara President Mukhriz Mahathir, Ansara patron Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed. -- BERNAMA

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