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Dr M: We can overcome if all remain united

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KUALA TERENGGANU, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad thanked the people for their support in helping the Government tackle the current economic problems.

He said Malaysians could help overcome the problems by remaining united and giving their undivided support on measures to be introduced by the Government.

The people's strong support has given the Government renewed confidence in overcoming the problems. Reiterating his call made yesterday at the MCA seminar on strategic thinking, Dr Mahathir said the people need to be disciplined if these efforts were to really bear fruits.

"We have plans to overcome the problems which will be put into effect when the time comes. However, we must be disciplined and give undivided support to the Government," he said.

Dr Mahathir was addressing a 15,000-strong crowd who welcomed him at the Sultan Mahmud Airport in Seberang Takir. The crowd rallied to show their support for the Prime Minister in his efforts to solve the country's economic problems.

In his two-day visit to the State, Dr Mahathir is accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali. He was received at the airport by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman and State Executive Councillors.

Tomorrow, he is scheduled to open the Terengganu Advance Technical Institute in Telok Kalong, Kemaman, besides meeting State Umno liaison committee members.

Dr Mahathir said the people's strong support has helped revitalise his spirit in tackling the current problems. He also spoke of the attacks on the nation's economy.

"When I see this strong support, my sagging spirit is revitalised," he said, to the applause of the crowd who chanted Hidup Mahathir (long live Dr Mahathir.)

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had been colonised for more than 400 years under different masters and had even survived racial unrest.

He added Malaysia gained independence because the people were united and this enabled the Government to administer the country according to its own mould.

"For 40 years we have succeeded in overcoming various problems, including racial unrest and the communist threat. We developed the nation with our own sweat to redeem our self respect.

"From a country which depended on two commodities, we now have a diversified economy. We also have industries.

"We are now wealthier compared to the colonial period.

"We achieved this because we were united and the Government took its responsibility seriously."

Wan Mokhtar told the crowd that the people's unity was the mightiest weapon against attacks on Malaysian leaders and the economy by foreigners.

He said certain parties, who envied the country's rapid development under Dr Mahathir's leadership, had resorted to various means to retard its growth.

"They even tried to create rift between the Prime Minister and his deputy, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim," he said.

Wan Mokhtar urged all Barisan Nasional component parties to show undivided support to Dr Mahathir in his efforts to solve the economic problems.

At a Press conference earlier, Wan Mokhtar said in yesterday's meeting in Kuala Lumpur, all Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers had pledged their support for Dr Mahathir.

He believed the prevailing problems could be solved if the people joined hands to face the present situation.

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