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Dr M: Stay united and disciplined

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TAIPING, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded Malaysians to know their responsibilities and remain united and disciplined.

He said as long as they did this, efforts by foreigners to undermine the country's economy will not succeed because Malaysians would not allow them to.

He said the people had shown they were united in facing the economic situation by rallying their support behind the Government.

"They do not resort to demonstrations or strikes because of the depreciation of the ringgit but instead collectively try to overcome efforts to create chaos in the country," he said.

As such, Dr Mahathir said, he was confident that any attempt by the foreigners to create chaos and unrest in the country would not succeed.

He said as a result of the depreciation of the ringgit, people were willing to work harder so that they could produce and sell more goods.

The Prime Minister said this at the opening of the RM20 million Bukit Merah Laketown water theme park near here this afternoon. Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and Penang Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar.

About 10,000 people turned up at the opening to welcome and show their support for him.

Dr Mahathir said the manifestation of the people's support like today would further strengthen his position as well as the Government's.

He said the foreigners were hoping that by reducing the value of the ringgit, the country would become poorer and would not be able to progress.

However, he said considering that the country's economic fundamentals were strong, it would be able to get through the bad times as long as the people did not buy imported goods.

The Prime Minister also said the foreign media was disappointed that their attempts to paint an unfavourable picture of the country met with failure as despite their criticisms, the country continued to progress rapidly.

He also said the people should continue to defend the country's independence without which there would not be any development like what is seen today.

He said after just 40 years of independence, Malaysia had undergone tremendous development which would be impossible to achieve if it had remained under colonial rule.

He said there were attempts to put Malaysia back under colonial rule although in a different form.

The strategy now, he said, was through the use of large amounts of money so that the country would become poor and be forced to borrow from them.

Following this, they will impose all kinds of restrictions and meddle in the country's political affairs.

Dr Mahathir also urged people in the Bukit Merah area not to sell their land although the value had shot up.

Instead, he said, they should invest and improve their economic situation.

Citing Langkawi as an example, he said a 'relong' of land was only valued at RM200 a piece previously but now it was going at RM250,000 per

acre.

He also said that the people should visit more local destinations to prevent the outflow of fund.

He said local destinations were just as beautiful as most of the tourist spots had been developed.

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