

12/11/1997

Gathering strength to determine economic future

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - A campaign, more specific than Vision 2020, will be launched soon to return the strength of national development and the future of the economy to the hands of Malaysians, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

As it is now, the Malaysian economy still reacts to the actions of foreign forces.

"The campaign will identify the roles that each Malaysian can play to counter the actions of certain foreign forces who deliberately undermine the Malaysian economy for their own interest," Dr Mahathir told a Press conference after launching the Malaysian-made trucks manufactured by Malaysian Truck and Bus Sdn Bhd, a member of the DRB-Hicom Group.

"We have to determine our own destiny. As it is now, our economy simply reacts to the actions of others. But to ensure that the campaign succeeds, it will need the co-operation of all Malaysians.

"The Government has its own ways of overcoming the problem. But whatever the Government plans and does will not achieve its end unless the people observe self-discipline and make the most of this drive."

The campaign will involve, among others, work and study habits and other deeds previously carried out without much thought to the national economy.

He said the attacks on the ringgit had rendered Malaysia helpless in determining its own destiny and it had to instead wait for other people's reaction.

"This situation should not be allowed to occur in the way it did."

Asked when the campaign would be launched, Dr Mahathir said:

"As soon as possible. We have to make preparations."

Asked to elaborate on how the campaign would work, Dr Mahathir said:

"We have identified weaknesses in several sectors of the economy and how to overcome them. We will then explain to the people how they can play a role to ensure the success of the campaign."

In his speech, Dr Mahathir reminded DRB-Hicom Group on the need to increase local components in its vehicles.

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