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Mahathir-Criticism

GOVT OPEN TO CRITICISMS, SAYS DR M

SEREMBAN, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the government is open to public criticisms and sometimes it accepted the people's criticisms on some of its actions.

The Prime Minister said at times the government was criticised for failing to resolve problems.

He gave an assurance that the government would strive to settle all the problems faced by the people.

"Sometimes, it is difficult to resolve all the problems as there are too many problems such as social ills, traffic congestion and various other problems," he said when speaking at the Mawar Haemodialysis Centre's charity dinner at town padang here.

He said there were groups which advise the government to do certain things but after implementing it, they criticise saying what the government had done was wrong.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek and Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng are among the 20,000 people present at the function.

"In Kuala Lumpur, for instance, there is massive traffic jam and there are minibuses which do not adhere to traffic regulations and they criticise the minibus.

"We also take action to stop the operations of minibuses to be replaced with bigger buses and straight away they criticise the government that the big buses create problems," he said.

Similarly, the government's move to have special lanes for buses and taxis was also not spared from their criticism as they claim the lanes confused road users, he said.

"We cannot do something to the satisfaction of everyone," he said.

"But as a government, we accept criticisms....please advise us to improve the people's wellbeing and we appreciate the people's support," he said.

Dr Mahathir said with the people's support, the Barisan Nasional government could turn Malaysia into a developed country and achieve the objectives of Vision 2020 earlier than expected.

He also hoped that Malaysians then would not feel inferior to others and they would be respected by others.

The dinner, the biggest ever to be held in the country, raised RM10 million in contributions from multinationals and individuals who presented their donations to Dr Mahathir.

Earlier in the day, Dr Mahathir had opened the RM6 million centre located on a 0.6ha site in Jalan Rasah. -- BERNAMA

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