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Mahathir-Civil

GOVT PROUD WITH CIVIL SERVICE RESPONSIVE TO CHANGES

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government was proud to have a civil service which is responsive to changes to improve efficiency, management and administration in the public sector.

He said the country's civil service had shown remarkable improvement in their quality of service.

"There is a clear change in the attitude of civil servants on their role in national development," he said.

He said the civil servants were beginning to realise that the profits reaped by the private sector enabled the government to develop various socio-economic projects for the benefit of the people.

They had accepted the reality that the private sector was their main partner in the country's development and as a client, it was important that the private sector be treated well, he said when speaking at the presentation of the Prime Minister's Quality Award '96 and opening of the MS ISO 9000 National Symposium here.

"The change in perception is the main factor to the moulding of a new culture which gave importance to quality service to clients," he said.

He said the process to bring about a change in attitude and work culture took a long time and it would gradually absorb into all levels of the public service.

The change in attitude and work culture should be the prime driving force for government employees to carry out their duties pro-actively, he said.

Dr Mahathir said many factors come into play when carrying out an activity and all the factors must be administered well to achieve the desired objectives.

"We know the importance of a vision charter and clear objectives of an organisation. This need to be complemented with strategic and efficient management in many aspects like human resources, financial and information management," he said.

Quality work culture, noble values and positive work ethics were vital to achieve excellence, he said.

Dr Mahathir said the public sector must value the contributions of the private sector to the country's development and accept the reality that the private sector was the main driving force for the country's rapid growth.

He said the private sector played an important role in taking over the services provided by the government by way of privatisation.

He also attributed the private sector's success in securing investment opportunities overseas to the support of the government's administration which ensured a conducive investment climate.

"I am confident the private sector will continue to prosper and play a vital role in our efforts to realise the country's vision," he said.

Under the Seventh Malaysia Plan, investments were expected to grow at 5.6 percent a year with the private sector playing a meaningful role, he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that Malaysians should accept the reality that rapid growth had its own cost as evident from the experiences of developed countries which are plagued with problems of moral decadence among the people.

He said incidences in the developed countries should be taken as a

lesson by Malaysia to be more sensitive to the social ills like drug addiction, AIDS, dumping of babies, child abuse and loafing which had started to rear its ugly head among the people of this country.

Touching on the country's economic growth driven by technology and high productivity, Dr Mahathir said the move required pro-active effort in boosting work efficiency and effective management skills.

"In this regard, we need to speed up the shift towards value-added activities based on hi-tech. The shift required expertise in science and technology, research and development," he said.

He also said the rapid growth of the information technology should be utilised fully as Malaysians should not be contented by being users merely but instead become suppliers of applications. -- BERNAMA

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