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Mahathir-message

LET'S ALL PROTECT ECONOMY AGAINST ROGUES, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged the people to join the government in taking on international rogues out to undermine the Malaysian economy and that of her neighbours.

Dr Mahathir said the people's solid backing for the government's present and future measures against the conspirators was crucial in ensuring a resilient national economy that continued to benefit Malaysians.

"These selfish and heartless speculators are out to destroy what the people have worked for. It is a mockery of the much-talked-about free market," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said this in his message in the souvenir programme for the 1997 Umno general assembly.

The four-day event starts tomorrow with the Umno Youth and Wanita Umno assemblies which Deputy Prime Minister and deputy party president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim will simultaneously open at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir will open the general assembly proper on Friday at the same venue.

Dr Mahathir said: "We'll not let these international rogues destroy developing economies."

The prime minister also called on Malaysians to become a nation of pioneers ever willing to take on challenges in order to emerge as a very advanced nation.

He said the world would not wait for them.

Dr Mahathir said: "Let there not be only others who monopolise new knowledge while we are left struggling behind."

He said Malaysians should not allow themselves to be swept away by the tides of development.

Instead they should contribute and play their appropriate roles so as to also benefit from the rapid development in information technology, science and other technologies, he said.

On Umno, Dr Mahathir said the general assembly this time around would see the removal of the word "Baru" (new) from the party name.

This meant, he said, eliminating whatever doubts there were as to Umno being the sole guide and the protector of the Malays since its formation in 1946.

"Hence, a chapter of our party's saga comes to a close. Party members who once were separated from Umno are now back into the fold," he said referring to the dissolution of the break-away Parti Melayu Semangat 46 last year which paved the way for the return of former S46 members en bloc to Umno.

Dr Mahathir reminded party members that Umno's continued survival as the country's administrator much depended on the party's ideals and cause and its ability to make programmes work for the people.

Closely inter-linked with these was the quality of the Umno leadership itself: whether it could turn aspirations into reality, he said.

"We'll not realise our aspirations the moment we compromise our ideals with graft and don't bother to check it. In fact we'll lose the people's confidence and they'll then say that Malays are no longer fit to rule," he said.

In this context, Dr Mahathir said Umno's most important agenda was to

create a clean government at all levels and earn the people's continued trust through prolonged selfless service to them.

"Leaders elected to uphold the people's trust must never let them down by actions that run contrary to party ideals," he said.

Umno had remained an outstanding party because the leadership had from the outset insisted on honesty and trustworthiness, Dr Mahathir added. --
Bernama

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