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Mahathir-Congress

MALAYSIA ON THE RIGHT COURSE TO ACHIEVE VISION 2020

PETALING JAYA, April 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysia is on the right course to be a developed country by 2020.

The Prime Minister, however, said there was a need to give emphasis to certain areas to ensure Vision 2020 would be much more meaningful.

"There is no necessity to change the direction but there is a necessity to emphasize certain areas," he said at a press conference after attending a two-hour close door dialogue with participants of the National Congress on Vision 2020 at Bandar Sunway, near here.

The two-day high level congress ended today with the organiser handing over the rapporteur's report to the Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir said the congress' recommendations would be studied thoroughly by the government.

It will be adopted as a guideline to enable the nation achieve Vision 2020 without making too many mistakes, he said.

Dr Mahathir said one of the pertinent points raised in the rapporteur's report was the need for an active participation by the younger generation in charting Malaysia's course towards achieving Vision 2020.

"The youths feel that their views are not given due weight by the government and therefore we should give more opportunities for them to voice their views and participate in the process," he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia would continue with its normal industrial programme although there were other new economic approaches taken by the government to speed up the country's development process.

"We think that we are on the right course. We have taken note of changes in our environment, particularly the information age and accordingly we have our programme to get our people to understand the changes and participate in the new information age," he said.

Dr Mahathir agreed that some states might achieved Vision 2020 earlier than the targeted year due to their robust growth but it would not affect the other states as they would have enough time to catch up. -- BERNAMA

TEAM AH RN