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PM: Economic development now harder with onset of complacency

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Stressing the need for continued political stability and economic development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned Malaysia's youth that the task will not be as easy as it had been in the past.

The Prime Minister said that this was because signs of complacency and a desire to sit back and enjoy life had emerged.

"Lepak, bohsia, drug usage and others will undermine the resilience and the determination of young Malaysians. The work ethic will deteriorate," he said, adding that the demand would be for more pay for less work, as in developed countries.

He added that the trend towards decadence, as seen in Europe, would also be seen in Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir was delivering his inaugural address titled Malaysia in the next millennium: Challenges for the new generation at the Universiti Malaya alumni reunion at Lembah Pantai.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, the alumni's advisor and Yang di-Pertua of Penang Tun Hamdan Sheikh Tahir, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, alumni president Datuk Noordin Razak and UM vice-chancellor Tan Sri Dr Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad.

Later, Dr Mahathir witnessed the presentation of a RM500,000 donation from the Universiti Malaya Alumni Association to the university's alumni fund, besides launching an exhibition on works of the alumni.

In his speech, the Prime Minister also touched on political pressure on Malaysia, which he felt would increase in the future.

He said Western-style democracy in which the individual was supreme would be imposed on Malaysia, warning that political instability and frequent changes of government would characterise the Malaysian scene.

He also said as affluent Malaysians rejected certain kinds of employment, more foreigners would immigrate to the country.

"At first they would come only to work. But soon they will settle down and demand rights including citizenship.

"Malaysians would want to deny them these rights but the rest of the world will apply pressure. Eventually there will be accommodation."

Dr Mahathir also spoke on how rogue speculators had destroyed Malaysia's economy in the process of enriching themselves.

"This will happen again and again. If we look like attaining Vision 2020, our politics and economy will be undermined. Malaysians will also be used for this purpose."

Dr Mahathir said most youths would be influenced, while only a few would resist.

He said repeated attempts would be made to restore the Malaysia Boleh spirit.

"There will be protracted struggles between the patriots and worldly youths. Who will win? That will be the question as well as the challenge."

Dr Mahathir said since what would happen to Malaysia would be very much influenced by what happened to the rest of the world, it was then necessary to forecast the future of the world first.

He said the borderless world would result in massive migration, where people moved to where they expected to live a better life with better jobs and better social amenities.

"Homogeneous countries will give way to multi-racial countries

everywhere. No nation will be able to stop the inflow of foreigners without being accused of injustice and inhuman treatment.

"The world will become truly borderless and countries will melt into one global entity."

Dr Mahathir felt the countries of Europe and North America, the most prosperous in the world, would cease to be European in the sense of being Caucasian.

"Indians, Africans and Chinese will flow into European countries so that before even one century passes, Europe will no longer be identified with white people. Black and yellow and brown people will all be Europeans. Already European athletes are significantly black."

However, Dr Mahathir said the countries which would have the biggest number of people of pure stock could be the Asians, adding that the Chinese, Koreans and Japanese would remain the purest for a long time.

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