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Prepare for global changes, PM advises Malaysians

DATUK Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged Malaysians to prepare for future plans of action and strategies to enable them to face global changes and challenges.

The Prime Minister said this is to ensure the nation's true Independence in the years ahead as it moves towards a new global era where vast changes will occur in view of rapid development in science and technology.

If the people fail to gear themselves towards facing the changes - especially in information technology, multimedia and communications which will result in the globalisation of all human activities - the country may not be able to keep abreast of the developed nations, he said.

"As such, the people should prepare from now to face the new millennium," he said in his message in the souvenir programme for the 40th National Day.

In 40 years of Independence, the Prime Minister said, Malaysia has experienced rapid development and is now moving towards becoming an industrialised nation.

Due to its successes, Malaysia has become a model to other developing nations and Muslim countries, he added.

The nation's development has benefited all races. However, for continued progress, the people must strive further to improve skills, efficiency and knowledge in their respective fields, he said.

Dr Mahathir also reminded the people not to neglect noble values when pursuing progress and development, noting that the Government seeks to strike a balance between physical and spiritual development to promote a civil society.

The approach is in line with this year's National Day theme, "Virtuous Behaviour Towards a Successful Society," which is chosen to highlight the need for self-resilience in dealing with influences that could cause moral decay and destroy the structure of our society, he said.

Meanwhile, chairman of the 1997 National Day central committee, Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, said that all quarters should involve themselves in the Government's efforts to promote noble values, especially among the younger generation, so that virtuous behaviour will become a way of life.

Sabbaruddin said that only virtuous behaviour and a high level of commitment and determination can ensure the success of a society.

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