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PM: Discipline key to our well-being

A. Rahman Osman

KANGAR, Sat. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged the people to be disciplined citizens so as not to undo whatever achievements made by the country.

If they could continue acceding to the rule of law, the Prime Minister said it would augur well for Malaysia's future well-being.

He said the leadership's role was merely to provide the country with the necessary guidance to enable it to prosper further.

"We do not wish for a Government so powerful that it could arrest people it did not like.

"What we desire is a form of Government which could create orderliness and administer the country," he said, adding that Malaysians have thus far played their role to expectations.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a meet-the-people gathering at Dewan Warisan in conjunction with his day-long working visit to Perlis.

Among the 5,000 participants were his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and wife Datin Seri Shamsiah Mohamad Yassin and State leaders.

Dr Mahathir said the people must realise that their failure to become responsible citizens could reduce the country to chaos.

"If they lack discipline, even the best government system or the most brilliant leaders would not be able to help them," he added.

He also said it was extremely easy to create a state of uncertainty and undo whatever has been attained.

"People may say we're talking bad about Albania but the fact remains that the Albanians have brought chaos upon themselves to the extent that their helpless Government has to summon foreign intervention to help restore order," he said.

"Let the situation in Albania today be a lesson to all of us."

Dr Mahathir also called for youths to be given lessons on being good citizens from an early age to prevent them from easily succumbing to social problems later on.

Speaking to reporters later, he said it was vital for children to be taught values including acquiring a sense of responsibility in the attempt to check social ills.

The prevailing problems did not result from weaknesses in the education system, he added.

"The fault often lies in people's attitudes. For example, a history teacher can also teach the lessons of history instead of confining himself to the syllabus."

Later at the Padang Besar border town, Dr Mahathir witnessed the signing of six memorandums of understanding between the Perlis Government and private companies to undertake joint venture projects in the State.

The agreements were for manufacturing of essential oils, isolators and voltage transformers, halal gelatin, waste treatment project, hotel and for the development of the Padang Besar township.

Dr Mahathir also visited the Mata Air forest reserve.

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