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Mahathir-Action

ACT NOW TO DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, SAYS PM

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the people must act now to help the nation to revive its economy and to defend its independence.

He said that the people were still resilient now to deal with the situation and should not wait until the economy was under more severe pressure like what had happened in other countries.

"We have not yet experienced severe pressure, what is real economic meltdown but let us not wait for what had happened in other nations where 22 million workers are deprived of jobs, the people do not have enough food, are without medicines, cannot provide milk for their children...", he said at the meet-the-people session at Sekolah Kebangsaan Kampung Chengal in Ketereh, about 20km from here.

Among those present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamad, Dewan Negara President Tan Sri Mohamad Yaakob and former Deputy Prime Minister Tun Ghafar Baba.

Dr Mahathir said: "Our country is still calm, peaceful, stable and in such an environment we still have the capacity to draw up measures to face this challenge, the greatest we have faced so far."

In this respect, Dr Mahathir called on the people to refrain from actions that could create tension and chaos in the country "as it will reduce our capability in facing up to pressures aimed at us."

He said that the people should understand factors for the depreciation of the Ringgit and the crash of the stock market and to manage their finances wisely including giving preference to local goods.

As for traders, he said that they should give preference to dealing in local goods and in currencies like the Yen, Baht, Peso and Ringgit if they need to conduct transactions abroad.

"With the full support of the people, we will overcome this attempt to colonise this country once again. What we are doing is to defend our independence, that is all," he said.

Dr Mahathir, in reference to the 41st National Day celebrations on Aug 31, said: "If we regard ourselves as an independent race, we must be responsible to ensure our independence."

-- BERNAMA

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