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`Allegations made to create problems'

Manisah Ismail; Nik Imran Abdullah

KOTA BARU, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today dismissed allegations that the Government was inefficient, corrupt and practised favouritism.

The Prime Minister said these allegations were intended to weaken the ringgit and create economic problems in the country.

He added the country enjoyed better economic growth than other developing countries.

"Malaysia had made tremendous achievements," he said at the breaking of fast at Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa's residence at Sri Puri in Bukit Marak today.

"Our economic growth is much better than other developing countries. This shows the Government is not inefficient as alleged. The country progresses because it has a capable Government which knows how to develop it," he said.

Also present were Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman and State Secretary Datuk Wan Hashim Wan Daud.

The breaking of fast was also attended by Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob, Umno Supreme Council members and leaders of Barisan Nasional component parties in Kelantan.

Dr Mahathir had earlier chaired the State Umno liaison committee meeting. He was accompanied by his wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

However, the Prime Minister said the depreciation of the ringgit had made the country poor and as a result, various problems have cropped up.

"It has affected our business, trade and possibly a few companies will suffer losses."

To overcome the problem, Dr Mahathir said the people must set aside politics, race and other matters and give priority to defend the economy.

"God willing, if we are united and assist the Government in its efforts to overcome the problem, we will be able to defend our country, especially from having to rely on the International Monetary Fund for assistance."

The Prime Minister later performed the terawih prayers before leaving for Kuala Lumpur.

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