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Mahathir-Workers

BE PATIENT IN FACING CHALLENGES OF ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked workers in the country to be patient in facing trials and tribulations caused by the economic slowdown.

He said they must also accept the reality that government expenditure had to be trimmed down due to the slowdown.

" We have to tighten our belts a bit to ensure our country continues to develop," he said in his Workers' Day message.

Although workers in the country are affected by the economic turmoil, the situation was not that serious like in other countries in the region, he said.

" We are grateful that our workers' fate is not as bad as their counterparts in other countries in this region. Except for those who are job choosy, our country has ample jobs. May be their income is not the same as before," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government was proud with the workers' resolve to be with the government in overcoming the economic woes.

" Our workers did not resort to actions which can further worsen our economic situation. They are united, disciplined and responsible in facing the problems.

" Our trade unions must also be praised for their understanding of the situation faced by the country. They know that the problems are caused by the actions of outsiders," he said.

Dr Mahathir said workers must also realise that there were signs of subtle attempts by certain outside groups to re-colonise the country.

" This time, they are not using military power or politics to dominate us but instead resort to economic might," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government was striving hard to thwart their attempts.

Various measures had been taken to stimulate economic activities which had been bogged down by the economic turbulence.

The measures include providing credit facilities, cutting down imported goods, encouraging the people to buy and use more local products, he added.

-- BERNAMA

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