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Be thankful our economic problems not as bad as other nations: PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said Malaysians should be thankful that the economic turmoil is not as bad as other countries, but cautioned Malaysians not to take things for granted because they can share the same fate as the others.

He said that Malaysians are lucky because even though there is an economic turmoil in the country, they do not see it.

"One of the problems I face is to convince the investors that we have an economic problem, because they do not believe this since there are countries where due to economic problems, the people have to boil cats to eat," Dr Mahathir said in his address at the 90th anniversary dinner of the Sultan Abdul Hamid College dinner held in Kuala Lumpur last night.

"We have not reached that stage. We do not have to look for food through the rubbish heaps. But there are countries where we see that, and the people suffer due to the economic problems - they lack in food, medicine and milk for the children.

"Therefore, we have to be thankful that in Malaysia although we face economic problems, it is not as bad as other countries. However, we cannot take things for granted because if we are not careful, we will also share the similar fate," he said.

He added that in Malaysia, the Government has been able to manage the situation although it does not have that much of money.

"If there is anyone who want to loan money to the Government, we will accept it," he said jestfully, and received a roar of laughter from the crowd.

He said that the Government can still manage to run the country although it is in debt.

"I am confident that with programmes that are in place, the economy will recover. I believe this can be done as quickly as possible with the cooperation of the rakyat," he said, adding that the rakyat should not create disorder and unrest in the country.

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