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Dr Mahathir appreciative of trade unions, workforce

Ahmad A. Talib

AYER KEROH, Sat. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today paid tribute to the country's trade unions and the workforce for their understanding during these difficult times.

He said this reflected their maturity. Even professionals and managers were showing exemplary levels of understanding in the face of the country's economic problems.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president and chairman of the Barisan Nasional, also renewed his call to the people to support the Government in defending the sovereign right of the nation.

He said this was vital in the light of attempts to undermine the country's leadership by weakening the national economy.

He said this at a "Meet the People Session" at Dewan Hang Jebat.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin led other State leaders, representatives of Barisan Nasional component parties, community leaders and the people at a large gathering at the hall.

Dr Mahathir is here on a short working visit. In the morning, he met Malacca Umno leaders at a closed-door meeting.

He was later joined by BN leaders for lunch.

Addressing the packed hall, Dr Mahathir said:

"We have toiled for several decades to bring ourselves to the present level of development. We cannot allow others to come and destroy all our good work.

"That is why it is important for everyone to know the reasons which led to our economic problems. The Government will do everything possible to overcome these difficulties.

"Of course, the Government can't do it alone. That is why I am renewing my plea to everyone to stand behind the Government to sort out these problems. Insyallah, we will pull through."

In his tribute to the trade unions and workforce, Dr Mahathir said: "Elsewhere there could very well have been strikes and unrest which will not help the situation at all.

"Such high level of maturity demonstrated by our trade unions and the workforce can definitely help us in overcoming our problems."

Earlier, in a short speech, the Chief Minister urged everyone in Malacca to throw their support behind the Prime Minister in tackling the country's problems.

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