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Dr Mahathir: We will once again rise and overcome challenges

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he was confident Malaysians would once again rise and overcome challenges "thrown our way" amid the economic problems.

He said the daunting challenges could be overcome with political stability, a pragmatic approach to policies and strategies, social cohesion and the support of the people.

He made it clear that the people's resolve must not be easily swayed by views which tend to undermine confidence and self-reliance.

"This is a time when we all have to pull together," Dr Mahathir said in his foreword for the published National Economic Recovery Plan which he described as "road map for recovery" and a well-conceived Plan which required a sense of urgency and commitment as time was of the essence.

The 216-page Recovery Plan, unveiled by Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin on July 23, will be sold for RM20 each at the National Printers from tomorrow.

He said in the process of overcoming the difficulties, it was inevitable that sacrifices would have to be made and pain endured.

He said there were real obstacles that must be overcome before the nation could return to the previous path of sustained and vigorous economic growth.

Outlining the role of the various parties in pulling the country out of economic difficulties, Dr Mahathir said while recovery would continue to be influenced by external factors and developments, there was still much that Malaysians could do.

He said the Government, on its part, had instituted and implemented several urgent responses to the crisis affecting Malaysia and the region. The private sector must also demonstrate confidence and resilience. Dr Mahathir said public support was also vital.

In implementing strategies outlined by the Plan, he said, the Government would be sensitive to the plight of the people, especially the poor. The Government will also be proactive, pragmatic and flexible in adapting to changes in the environment.

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