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DON'T WIN VOTES OUT OF ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the current economic problem is for all Malaysians to face together and no political party should make use of the present difficulties to win votes for themselves.

He said he felt "very sorry" if the opposition DAP made use of the present economic turmoil in the country for its political end.

"I had hoped that they would work with the government but unfortunately they see only political opportunities in the present turmoil.

"They don't see that this is something that we are facing together and therefore they should work to help us overcome the problem," he told reporters after launching the Malaysian-British Business Council here.

He was asked to comment on a statement by DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang that the opposition party would win more seats in the next general election with an agenda on the current economic turmoil.

Dr Mahathir said that the BN was not going to make use of the economic turmoil to gain political clout.

Asked whether other opposition parties were not extending any kind of cooperation, Dr Mahathir said: "We thought at first they were but apparently now they see an opportunity for themselves to win more seats.

"So they have their eyes focused on the seats while we have our eyes focused on helping the economy to recover even if we become unpopular in the process."

-- BERNAMA

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