

30 JUL 1998

Najib-Book

"THE WAY FORWARD" HIGHLIGHTS MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 30 (Bernama) -- The book, "The Way Forward", by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has shown that the model used by Malaysia has succeeded in bringing about political stability and racial unity, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

"We have shown the outside world that we can make Malaysia a successful country and provide a model different from that of other countries," he said.

Because of the success of the New economic Policy (NEP), the current economic crisis was not viewed through the racial angle, he told reporters after launching the book, here.

He also said that Dr Mahathir's views, though once opposed by the outside world, were now accepted by the international community.

For example, he said, Dr Mahathir's views on the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the context of the current economic crisis and that of currency speculators in the money market had become the opinions of the mainstream although they were at first considered extreme.

Earlier, in his speech, he said the book addressed the rationale and necessity for the NEP and put forth the future direction of Malaysia.

"The New Economic Policy is seen differently by different people. Whatever the views of others, to us, it has provided political and social stability and this has been tested through time," he said.

The book, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson was launched in London by former British prime minister Baroness Thatcher early this month.

It is a collection of five essays on Dr Mahathir's views on the NEP from various perspectives.

-- BERNAMA

HAK JK