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PM: We are better off than other countries

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia's economic woes are not as bad as those of other countries in the region but cautioned the people not to take things for granted.

The Prime Minister said if they were not careful, Malaysia could also suffer the same fate as the other countries.

Speaking at the Malam Darul Aman 98 organised by the Sultan Abdul Hamid Old Collegians Association at Hotel Istana, Dr Mahathir said:

"We are still able to control the situation ... for this we must be thankful. We can still manage the country although we have to borrow money.

"I am confident the economy will recover faster with the co-operation of the people ... that's why we should not create chaos or disturbances."

Alluding to the demonstrations by supporters of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he said that if there were peace, economic recovery would be hastened.

"But if we resort to violence like in some countries, the situation will worsen."

"We do have some problems but, thank God, they are not as bad as theirs," he added.

In a light-hearted manner, Dr Mahathir told the audience that he sometimes encountered difficulties explaining to foreigners that Malaysia was experiencing an economic problem.

This was because the situation here was not as bad as in some other countries.

"There, the people are suffering. (By comparison) in Malaysia, we have yet to scavenge for food," Dr Mahathir said.

Among those present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Malacca Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabudin and Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid.

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