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Mahathir-Malays

MAHATHIR NOT SATISFIED WITH MIDDLE-CLASS BUMIS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he is not satisfied with the number of middle-class Bumiputeras.

He said the government was serious in uplifting the standards of Bumiputeras whose middle-class status were crucial to create a developed society.

The government would step up efforts to create more middle-class Malays through the Entrepreneur Development Ministry and seek ways to realise the objective, he said.

" We provide financial assistance to help them improve their status to that of middle-class.

"Not stopping at giving financial aid, we offer them various business opportunities including the franchise system which provides many chances for our people to attain middle-class status," he said when winding up the debate at the three-day Umno General Assembly which ended today.

Dr Mahathir said he often discussed with Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed on ways to speed up efforts to create more middle-class Bumiputeras.

He said he also held discussions with Japanese businessmen on the possibility of Malay entrepreneurs taking up restaurant franchise programmes.

Dr Mahathir also said there was a need for a clear definition to determine who could be grouped under the middle-class category.

" We must know because many of our people have not only RM1 million, RM2 million but hundreds of millions of ringgit, can these people be categorised as middle-class,? he said.

-- BERNAMA

AFY TS