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NERP-FOREWORD

MAHATHIR: MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE BY MALAYSIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- There is still much more that Malaysians can do and for themselves, in order to triumph over the present economic difficulties although the process towards recovery would continue to be influenced by external factors and developments, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"This is a time when we all have to pull together. I am confident that once again the Malaysian people will rise and overcome the challenges thrown our way," he said in a foreword carried in the 216 page National Economic Recovery Plan (NERP) which would be on sale to the public from today.

The government on its part, he added, has already instituted and implemented several urgent responses to the crisis affecting Malaysia and the region while the private sector must demonstrate confidence and resilience.

Dr Mahathir also said public support is very crucial and the people's resolve must not be easily swayed by opinions and viewpoints which tend to undermine confidence and self-reliance.

"Sacrifices must be made, pain endured and real obstacles must be overcome before the country can return to the previous path of sustained and vigorous economic growth.

"With political stability, a pragmatic approach to policies and strategies, social cohesion and the support of the people, a pragmatic approach to policies can be overcome," he added.

With the National Economic Recovery Plan, a road map for recovery now in place, Dr Mahathir said the government would be proactive and pragmatic in implementing its strategies.

Saying that the NERP was a well-conceived plan, he said the government would be flexible in adapting to changes in the environment and sensitive to the plight of the people, especially the poor.

"But, time is of the essence. There must be a sense of urgency and commitment," the prime minister stressed, adding that the economy has shown signs of contraction and it was crucial that immediate and bold measures be taken to turn the economy around.

Reminding the people that the nation's record of laudable success in nation building and economic development were not without its trials and tribulations, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians as a nation, were once again being called upon to prove themselves in this challenging time," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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