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Mahathir-Dialogue

MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE TO OVERCOME FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he believed in a good, polite and sensible dialogue as an effort to overcome the current financial problems.

"If everybody puts their heads together, if we have the will to overcome the problem, I am sure we can do it and the world will be a much better place than this idea of impoverishing others," he said at the dialogue on managing the Asian financial crisis here.

He was responding to a remark by a participant on the difficulty to have a good dialogue while at the same time defend one's opinion.

The prime minister said he believed in a win-win situation and prospering thy neighbour.

"Dialogue should be a two-way thing and one should not dictate to the other like the International Monetary Fund telling you that you are bad and corrupt and practices cronyism," he said.

"It is not that I've been given much opportunity by some, if you feel you should be frank and I am very frank but what is the result?"

Dr Mahathir said what he got was people downgrading him and rating him lowly.

"It's a difficult and unfair world, I've to put up with it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he believed in being nice to people.

"If people are nice to me, I find it difficult and even embarrassing to speak the truth, but I'll be extremely polite," he said.

-- BERNAMA

ARA THG