

19 JAN 1998

Mahathir-United

M'SIA WILL NOT SEEK IMF ASSISTANCE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Jan 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia will not seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if Malaysians remain united and thrifty in their spendings.

Speaking at the breaking of the fast at Masjid Sungai Menghulu here this evening, he said Malaysians should also spend wisely and increase their savings.

"Whatever our political differences...the important thing is the people must protect the country's freedom," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians must remain united, work together and adopt disciplinary approach to enable the country to overcome the problem.

There were foreign powers wanting to colonialise the country directly or indirect and such attempt could be thwarted if Malaysians remained aware of it, he said.

He said the people must protected the country's independence and freedom from such attempts by any foreign countries.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should not resort to actions like strikes and demonstrations but to remain calm in facing the current situation.

He said the people must help the country by increasing savings and trust funds through the use of their assets.

"Our assets could help the country overcome the problem of shortage of capital due to the depreciation of our currency...if we don't do it our country would be in a desperate situation and we might even lose our freedom," he said.

He said the people must take note of this because if Malaysia gave in to demand of international financial institutions it would be subjected to various pressures like those being experienced by some countries.

Dr Mahathir also urged Muslims to be moderate in their action and attitude so that various communities in the country could live in peace and harmony.

As such, he said they should be vigilant against those who wanted to use religion for self interest.

Some 1,000 people attended the breaking of the fast. They included Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and Langkawi Member of Parliament Datuk Abu Bakar Taib. -- BERNAMA

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