

22/01/1998

PM praises Malaysians for remaining charitable, caring

Fadzil Ghazali

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last night praised Malaysians for being able to remain caring and charitable during hard times.

"I am happy people still come forward to donate. As long as we remain resilient and caring, we can parry attempts to pressure us into submission," he said.

Dr Mahathir was speaking in Kuala Lumpur at the presentation of school aid and raya donations to orphans from the Orphans' Welfare Association of the Federal Territory.

The Prime Minister also received RM142,000 in donation from Bakti, Halim Saad Foundation and several individuals on behalf of the welfare association.

In his speech, the Prime Minister stressed the importance of a caring society to ensure harmonious living.

A caring society is an integral part of Malaysia's vision to join the ranks of the developed countries.

In this context, Dr Mahathir said the country had achieved one-third of its objectives under Vision 2020 in terms of achieving the living standards of an industrialised nation.

But he also reminded his audience how this march towards 2020 was disrupted by the currency turmoil in the region. "We still have 20 years to go... yet they have taken action (to disrupt the country's progress)".

Dr Mahathir also slammed certain quarters who have condemned the policies of governments in the region and demanded that their leaders step down. They accused the governments of corruption and discrimination.

"We may not be ideally clean, but we have succeeded in eradicating poverty and helping the needy. This shows that while we have weaknesses we bring positive development to the country," he said.

"What they have achieved (on the other hand) is to make us poorer," he added.

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