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PM tells foreign investors not to meddle in politics

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Malaysia welcomes foreign investments but warned that such investors should not meddle in the country's politics.

"These foreign investors must not use their economic power to exert political influence here. It is not their business to do so."

Dr Mahathir said: "We are capable of managing our country politically, and we do not want foreign investors to gain benefits only for themselves, and play a role in determining the country's leadership and other issues."

He added that the country was open to foreign investments and there were ample opportunities for investors to make profits which would also benefit the people.

Dr Mahathir said this when launching the Barisan Nasional Youth Carnival at Merdeka Square. BN component party leaders and the corporate sector donated more than RM3 million to the National Special Fund.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysians were capable of determining their own leaders and assist the Government in efforts to develop the country.

He said the people's efforts could be seen in responding to the Government's call to buy local products, and travel to local tourist destinations which would help to "free us" from the pressures of using imported goods.

He said the economic downturn caused by external forces had not caused disunity among the various races.

"Instead, the unity is solid ... we are not shaken by any efforts to split us. Whether we are Iban, Kadazan, Murut, Bajau, Malays, Chinese, Melanau or Indians ... we are united," he said.

Dr Mahathir spoke of the racial riots in 1969 where disparity of wealth was quite evident.

Since then, he said, the Government, supported by the people, had taken action in distributing the nation's wealth equally.

"As such, the feeling of jealousy among the races has been greatly reduced."

The Prime Minister said the fact that people of various races could gather here today without fear of any possible riots "is the country's greatest achievement."

He also said that the nation's growth could be attributed to the "intrinsic strength" of the people, adding that this had spared the country from seeking external help.

"When we seek help from others, they will impose conditions which will make us subservient to them. We have attained independence and we do not wish to be dominated anymore."

Dr Mahathir said the people had proven their love and loyalty for the country by their willingness to contribute the best they could to the National Special Fund to help revive the economy.

"With this attitude, we can protect our nation's sovereignty and independence so that we can revive the economy and attain the developed nation status in 2020," he said.

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