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Mahathir-Peace

M'SIANS OF VARIOUS RACES LIVE IN PEACE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Malaysians of various races are able to cooperate and resolve any problems or misunderstandings amicably.

The prime minister said the people should be thankful for this because if the nation was not peaceful and there were riots or fights all the time, they would not be able to earn a living.

"In a peaceful country like Malaysia, we can live in comfort, we can work and earn a living from our toil," he said when flagging off 1,500 participants of the Duta Run, held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games, here.

The 2.8km run, participated by public transport drivers in the Klang valley and their families, started and ended at Hentian Duta, here.

The prime minister said those who worked harder would earn more but because of the problem of differing incomes of the various races in the country the government had to give attention to the bumiputeras so that they too could participate in all fields.

"In this way, they (bumiputeras) can earn not very much less than or sometimes the same as or more than the other races," he said.

He said such action would also reduce jealousies among the races and help make Malaysia a peaceful and safe country.

On the 16th Commonwealth Games, Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should show the world that they were capable of hosting such a big international meet so that the visitors would return home with sweet memories of the country.

About 6,000 athletes and officials from 70 Commonwealth countries are expected to participate in the games here on Sept 11-21.

Dr Mahathir said visitors to the games would want to visit Malaysia again if they were treated well and this would benefit all parties.

"Every time they come, bus and hired-car drivers will also make some profits, the country will profit, we will all share the fruit of our efforts.

On Hentian Duta, the prime minister said he was satisfied with the conditions at the bus and taxi terminal which was built in a short time to overcome the problem of public transport to the KL International Airport in Sepang.

The run was also held to promote the terminal. Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

-- BERNAMA

RAZ NHD JK