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Reformation `not something new but an on-going process'

PENANG, Wed. - The concept of `reformation' is not something new that is being introduced in the country this month, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said tonight.

Rather, he said, it was an on-going process that had been taking place throughout the history of Malaysia since Merdeka, and especially over the last two decades under the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking at the 115th anniversary celebrations of the Penang Chinese Town Hall, Koh said looking back, it is evident that a lot of economic, social and cultural reformation had taken place over the years.

"It is the process of such reformation and improvement which we have undergone that has brought about development and progress to the nation."

He said, however, that in the pursuit of development and progress, it had to be understood that reformation and transformation best happens in a climate of stability, peace and continuity.

"While continually undergoing the process of reformation, transformation and improvement, it is, however, important that there be continuity of some traditions and leadership.

"The Government has always and will continue to be open to constructive criticism, but it has to be done through peaceful and lawful ways."

Koh said the fruits of the reformation and transformation the country had undergone was clearly manifested in the nation's development and progress, and exemplified in the successful hosting of the recently concluded 16th Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"Besides the successful hosting of the Games, our athletes also did the country proud by winning a total of 36 medals - 10 gold, 14 silver and 12 bronze - to put the country in fourth place. This is certainly no small feat," he said.

Likewise, he said the Penang Chinese Town Hall had gradually over the last 115 years been undergoing a process of reformation and improvement in serving its role to unite the community.

Meanwhile, commenting on reported panic buying by residents out of fear for the imminent storms and floods expected to be caused by the La Nina phenomenon, he advised the people not to hoard too much food.

"It should be good enough to stock food at home to last just about three or four days. I do not expect the effects of the La Nina floods to last more than three days at a stretch," he said.

Koh said if the people continue to go into panic buying and hoarding, the prices would be unnecessarily pushed up.

He added it would also be a shameful waste if people hoarded food unnecessarily and did not consume them.

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