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Share winning formula, developing nations urged

Adeline Ong

DEVELOPING countries which have achieved economic development should not keep their winning formula to themselves, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"We should share it with everyone, for sharing is smart. It is smart because the prosperity and success of one country benefits other countries," he said at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Youth Ministers' Meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Dr Mahathir added that for a trading nation like Malaysia, having poor trading partners is no good at all.

"We feel that it is in our interest to help our trading partners to prosper. It is also good for our partners and that is a bonus which we have no objection to," he said in his speech which was read by the Minister of Youth and Sports Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin.

The prime minister said it is good that the focus of governments today is economic development and the well-being of their people, adding that the achievement of economic development needs certain initiatives and strategies.

"For Malaysia, it has a clear vision of the direction and objectives wants to achieve. We want to become a developed country in our own mould.

"And we want to achieve this by working with other countries in a kind of partnership which we call smart partnership - a partnership in which all partners gain, not one in which one partner gains at the expense of the other," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that as the new millennium approaches, the variety and speed of changes taking place in every field have increased, making acceptance and adjustments more difficult.

He said this will cause many to be side-lined and left behind.

"Unfortunately, changes are not always for the good. Unless a society is skillful at evaluating the changes, it may regress instead of progress.

"Globalisation has now become a catchword which is fashionable to mouth. What globalisation means is that countries and nation states have become passe and outdated," he said.

He added that in the globalised world, global players will dominate. They will determine the direction and the progress of the world and will brush aside governments, whether elected or otherwise.

"We are already seeing this happening. Governments are now being disciplined and even deposed by market forces, the name given to those who control international capital.

"The cost in human misery is irrelevant. The important thing is that market forces as an element of globalisation must not be obstructed," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that there can be no denying that the recent attacks on a nation's currency and the free movements of vast sums of money across the borders have resulted in more than 20 million workers, executives and professionals losing their jobs.

Dr Mahathir also called on youths to adjust to changes brought about by the new millennium but reminded them to carefully examine the ideology behind globalisation before it is too late.

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