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Smart dialogue timely and appropriate, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the National Smart Partnership Dialogue starting at the Sunway Lagoon Resort tomorrow was timely and appropriate as it draws upon the spirit of unity among Malaysians which could prove to be the best way of overcoming the current economic problems.

The dialogue, he said, had gathered many influential and well-respected Malaysians from various backgrounds to discuss relevant issues and possible solutions, especially in the context of Smart partnership and technology, to the current situation.

"The cooperation between Government, private sector and labour must continuously be improved to ensure the smooth implementation of development programmes," the Prime Minister said in his message in the NSPD souvenir programme.

Some 250 participants, including political leaders, top Government officials, corporate captains and trade union leaders, are expected to attend the two-day dialogue themed "Economic Recovery Through Smart Partnership."

Dr Mahathir said the long-term goals that the Government had set in Vision 2020 would be quite impossible to achieve without the Smart partnership interplay at the company, industry and national level.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in his message, said the present economic challenges facing the country placed a premium on building a consensus approach on the most sophisticated course of action to sustain and strengthen its development process in an appropriate, productive, constructive and sustainable way.

"Smart partnership is a concept that must have a prominent place in our future," he said.

He said the concept was founded on the application of the latest technology and techniques to ensure that the country could make a qualitative transformation to become a genuine civil society, a participatory nation committed to the delivery of the cherished goals and values that had guided all its development efforts.

"Short-term difficulties are a test, one we must triumph over by holding to our values and goals while we strive to realise them by more effective, enterprising, innovative and reformative means.

"We must strip away the shortcomings that have compounded the effects of international events on our economy while we concentrate our efforts on building the positive attributes our economy will need to emerge, as I believe we can, strengthened and better fitted to achieve our future objectives," he added.

In Petaling Jaya, NSPD '98 joint chairman Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman told a Press conference today Dr Mahathir would open the dialogue.

Dr Mahathir's keynote address is titled "National Smart Partnership Approach to Development Since Independence".

He will also be the moderator for the first session on "Strengthening National Resilience Through Smart Partnership - Roles of Private Sector, Labour and Government".

"We hope the outcome of the dialogue will also assist the National Economic Action Council and put many things in focus. There is a lot of miscommunication and misunderstanding on the present situation."

"A lot of things are being kept inside so we hope that frank and open

discussions will clear the matter," he said.

Omar is joint chairman of Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) which is organising the dialogue.

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