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Be efficient, Dr Mahathir tells Government servants

SEREMBAN, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on civil servants to be efficient and implement the Government's policies effectively.

He said the Government's aspirations would remain a dream if they failed to do so.

Under the present administration, the country is already moving along the right track towards greater achievements.

"If we make a wrong choice, it will be impossible to achieve what we aspire to continue doing," he said in his meeting with about 2,000 State Assemblymen and Government officers at the municipal council hall.

He said the perception that governments of independent countries should be able to automatically bring benefits to the people was wrong, as there were countries which failed to do so, despite having achieved independence.

"I admit that we have had some failures, but in many areas we have been very successful," he said, citing the Federal Land Development Authority's land scheme and Tabung Haji as some of the country's most successful projects.

He also urged Government employees to acknowledge the role played by the private sector and give full support to the Malaysia Incorporated concept aimed at promoting the private sector's activities.

They cannot regard the private sector as their enemy as the sector is contributing a lot to the Government through taxes.

He also reminded Government servants not to demand kickbacks from the private sector before approving applications for projects.

Dr Mahathir spoke on the attempts by foreign powers to dictate to the Government on economic, political and social issues.

He said the foreign powers wanted a leader for Malaysia who would bow to their wishes.

"But my friends and I (in the Government) are not willing to bow to them. As long as we are chosen and can form the Government, we will defend the country's sovereignty all out and we need (the co-operation) of all the civil servants and the people."

Dr Mahathir did not mention names at the function, but it was clear that he was referring to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was sacked in September last year as the Deputy Prime Minister and expelled from Umno.

Dr Mahathir said allegations that the Government had victimised "a member of its administration" were baseless.

He said several other Government leaders had been sacked and charged in court with various crimes, but they had not protested against the action or accused the Government as "cruel".

Dr Mahathir said when the Government found that a person was not fit to be a leader, it was its responsibility to remove the person, though he or she might be a "close friend".

He said one could not place the interest of a friend above that of the nation as this could lead to destruction.

The Prime Minister said he believed Anwar had kept Government files outside the country as he had planned to use them to sack members of the Cabinet he did not like when he became the Prime Minister.

When speaking in Malacca on Monday, Dr Mahathir had also said that Anwar's attempts to expose Government weaknesses through letters he

collected while in office showed Anwar had masterminded a conspiracy to topple the Government.

He said leaders who might be found unsuitable in future would also be dismissed.

"That's our stand because we uphold the principle of administration based on the law. If they are wrong, they will be charged in court and the court will decide whether they are guilty or not," he said.

Present were Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohamad Isa Abdul Samad and Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob.

(END)