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Be disciplined to ensure growth: PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged Malaysians to be disciplined to ensure growth and prosperity in the country.

"There was an attempt to force us to bow to certain foreign agencies whose objectives were to weaken us further but they failed.

"This is because Malaysians are loyal and disciplined, the economy is running smoothly and strong and we have managed to maintain it as such,"

Dr Mahathir said when addressing a gathering of some 5,000 Chinese calisthenics enthusiasts in Kuala Lumpur. The gathering was jointly organised by MCA, Wai-Nei-Tankung and 18th Form Taiji Qi Gong.

Dr Mahathir added that it cannot be denied that the Malaysian economy is strong because of the wisdom and efficiency of the Chinese in the economy, business and industry.

"With their abilities, our economic and monetary standing was not affected although the ringgit was devalued and stock prices declined. This is the product of discipline.

"We can be proud because in our country, we follow the rule of law not just talk about it.

"There are some who talk about the rule of law but break the law by having demonstrations. However, most Malaysians follow the rule of law.

"To maintain the rule of law successfully, we have to keep our feelings and emotions under control and one of the best ways of training ourselves to keep our emotions under control is by carrying out exercises such as Wai-Nei-Tankung, and Taiji," Dr Mahathir said.

He urged the Wai-Nei Tankung and Taiji Qi Gong participants to practice daily wherever they may be.

"This will contribute towards a stable nation, a nation that can become prosperous and which can protect and defend its sovereignty against attacks by people who want to deprive us of our independence," he said. He also said that although Malaysia is a multi-racial country, the people are tolerant towards the various culture, language and way of life of the various different races.

"It is healthy for the peace and stability of the country. The methods taken by MCA, for instance, can form a population which is disciplined. We need laws to ensure the country is peaceful and developed.

"However, laws are only useful if we heed it. If we have laws but do not respect and take heed of them, the laws are not useful to us.

"MCA has shown discipline not only among its members and the Chinese community, and non-MCA and non-Chinese who follow the action taken by MCA. This indicates something good for the country.

"We do not want turmoil in our country. We see that in certain multi-racial countries, relations are bad and people are constant enemies among themselves - for example in Kosovo and in Northern Ireland.

"However, in Malaysia, although attempts have been made to show indiscipline with demonstrations and such, Malaysians at large prefer law and order," he said.

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