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Mahathir-Privatisation

BE VIGILANT AGAINST INCITEMENT TO HATE SUCCESSFUL BUMIS- DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called for vigilance against foreigners who will stir up hatred against Bumiputeras who have succeeded under the New Economic Policy and privatisation.

Such hatred and envy against the Bumiputeras was despicable, he said when launching the Investment Week of the Pemodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) and the Amanah Saham Nasional here.

"Foreigners like to create this feeling of hatred to make us fail in our programme to have an equitable distribution of the country's wealth among all races," he said.

Dr Mahathir said foreigners wished to the various races in the country become enemies, resort to violence and damage the country.

"Hence let us not allow ourselves to be influenced by them, let us not fall prey to their incitement," he said.

The Prime Minister said privatisation had produced several rich Bumiputeras but the privatised institutions would not have succeeded in the absence of an individual who took his responsibilities seriously as the failure of his business would bring immense losses to him.

Dr Mahathir said the government did not wish to eliminate the rich as they were needed to pay high taxes which would increase the government's revenue to be used to help the poor and finance the various facilities for the people.

He said if the NEP had produced a group of wealthy Bumiputeras "then this was because we do not wish to see wealthy people from only among the non-Bumiputeras."

The Prime Minister said the people should continue to have confidence in the government's efforts to handle the country's problems -- economic, political and social.

"I am mentioning the need for the people to place their confidence in the government because there are many Malaysians particularly the highly educated who appear not to have faith in our abilities and together with the foreigners are condemning us...who are pressuring us to follow blindly what the foreigners and their experts are dictating to us."

"When they condemn the NEP, let us not join in the condemnation...when they level accusations of cronyism and nepotism...we also blame the government for allegedly practising these things when we are said to be not transparent."

The Prime Minister said the people should not be influenced by claims of cronyism, nepotism and so on to the extent of being apologetic for the implementation of the NEP.

"Let the foreigners condemn and criticise, let their sycophants in Malaysia join in the fray but we will continue with our policy," he said.

There had to be joint development for all the races in the country and they should all enjoy the wealth of this country in a just and equitable manner, Dr Mahathir added.

"We know better as what is likely to happen if there is no just and equitable distribution of wealth among the various races in Malaysia."

He said the launch of the PNB ASN2 Joint Investment Week showed the PNB's determination to pool capital to strengthen the national economy.

The PNB effort was timely considering that the entire population would be able to see the PNB's success via exhibitions, talks and seminars during

the week.
-- BERNAMA
ARA AAM