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Mahathir-Nation

BN HAS TRANSFORMED MALAYSIANS INTO A CAPABLE, SPIRITED NATION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight the Barisan Nasional (BN) has succeeded in transforming Malaysians into a brave, spirited and capable nation.

He said the BN-moulded Malaysian nation would continue to strive to make Malaysia a developed nation by the year 2020.

"I thank Malaysians who have opened their eyes and seen the various successes of the BN. Let there not be people who close their eyes altogether and do not see like the saying there are no blinder people than those who can see and yet refuse to see," the BN Chairman and Umno President said at the BN's 25th anniversary celebrations at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here.

Dr Mahathir also commended Malaysians for making it possible for the country to organise major world events successfully and also on their ability to create world records.

He also announced that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah had honoured world mariner Datuk Azhar Mansor with a Federal Award.

The key to Malaysia's success is the "Malaysia Boleh" slogan which is strongly held by the people, he said.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia's success in organising world events began in 1989 when the BN Government organised the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which had been recognised as the best CHOGM ever.

The Commonwealth Games hosted by Kuala Lumpur last year had also been recognised as the best Commonwealth Games ever, he added.

"Last week, we organised the Formula One (F1) race at the Sepang International Circuit that well, that it had been recognised as the yardstick for F1 races throughout the world," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia not only built the best circuit in the world but also showed that it was capable of the best world class management.

Malaysians had proved that they were capable of scaling the world's highest peak, Mt Everest, of doing a free fall in the north pole and walking in the north pole and Datuk Azhar had set a world record of solo sailing from West to East.

"As Malaysians they can do any and everything," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Malaysian nation cherished peace and it was this which prompted Tun Abdul Razak to set up the BN 25 years ago, by inviting opposition parties to join the BN and struggle for the nation.

The BN represented all races and ethnic groups in the country and all component parties cooperated in the government and in the BN, he said.

Even the smallest party could air its views at the BN Supreme Council and all components had three representatives irrespective of whether they were big or small parties and there was no on whose views were not considered in the BN, he added.

Dr Mahathir said the BN policies took into account the views of all races even though they were minorities.

"This is the Barisan Nasional...we have successfully administered the country..., we have been able to develop the country into the most developed of developing countries in the world," Dr Mahathir said.

-- BERNAMA

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