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Mahathir-Admin

DR MAHATHIR: ADMIN MACHINERY REMAINS APOLITICAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia's administrative machinery had maintained its professionalism by staying away from party politics.

He said the clear distinction was important as involvement in party politics could jeopardise implementation of government policies and programmes.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Diplomatic and Administrative (PTD) Officers' Association in Seri Kembangan, near here, he said the administrative service realised that if there were people among them actively pursuing politics of the Opposition, the same could happen when the Opposition formed the government.

"This is because officers supporting the ruling party that was defeated will actively work to fail the policies of the new government.

"Hence, the government machinery will not be effective no matter which party comes to power. The victims will be the country and the people," he said.

Dr Mahathir said personal political stand should not be taken into account or be allowed to influence implementation of decisions made by the government of the day.

He said Malaysia's rapid development proved that the country's administrators have generally discharged their duties professionally.

"If at all there are unprofessional officers, their number is negligible. I'm confident the administrators in Malaysia will continue to be professional in their work for the well-being of the country and all of us as citizens of this beloved nation," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the non-problematic administrative machinery had assisted the government in planning and implementing economic recovery measures to tackle the economic downturn.

"The support and co-operation of government officers and staff have enabled the government to come up with its own approaches to overcome the economic slowdown that battered our country," he said.

He said they did not resort to any industrial action although they were unable to buy as much they could before with the salary they received and with the stoppage of certain allowances.

The salary review for government employees was also not carried out, he said.

Apart from not demanding for anything and welcoming the government's austerity drive, many of them had to work extra to provide adequate information to the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) to help the government kick-start the ailing economy, he said.

Dr Mahathir said PTD officers would play a big role in transforming Malaysia into a developed country.

"I've confidence in the ability of the PTD officers especially in mastering the electronic government system. This will ensure the country's rapid progress will go on smoothly," he said.

The Prime Minister also said Malaysia's public administration had successfully managed to change the elitist administrative system inherited from the British to enable the people-elected government to entertain the people's wishes to their satisfaction.

He said the elitist administrative system made government officers as a higher-caste group and distanced them from the masses.

-- BERNAMA  
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