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Mahathir-satisfaction

DR MAHATHIR SATISFIED TO SEE MALAYSIA PROGRESSES

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 Nov (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he feels satisfied to see that Malaysia enjoys prosperity and the world no longer laughs at the country.

"For me, I don't care what others think of me. If I can see the result of my efforts and it benefits the country, that gives me the satisfaction," he said when asked about the satisfaction he gets from all his hard work which seemed not to be appreciated by a small group of people in the country.

Dr Mahathir said this in an interview with TV3 tonight, the transcript of which was issued by the Prime Minister's Office to Bernama.

"I don't want money or anything because I can't carry it around. If I want to have a plate of noodles, then I've a plate. If I have the money by the millions and want to eat ten plates, I can't. So, it's no use," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he felt satisfied to see that the result of his work has changed the country's features with rapid development and the people having money to go shopping and eat in restaurants.

Asked how he wanted to be remembered as prime minister, Dr Mahathir said: "Actually, I don't think about that. Be remembered, not remembered, that's up to them. Those wanting to condemn (me), will condemn also. It bothers me not. The important thing is that whatever I've done benefit our country."

Dr Mahathir said the world now has acknowledged Malaysia as a developed developing nation and no longer "uses us, laughs at us."

In addition to the ability to organise world class events like the Commonwealth Games and Formula 1, Malaysia has succeeded in creating a brave race and ever willing to face challenges.

"That gives satisfaction. The satisfaction to see Azhar (Mansor) made it back. For me, it's most satisfying because this is a new generation of Malaysians, going around the world alone. Something we didn't dream off but he did," he said.

Dr Mahathir also refuted allegation that several mega projects like the KL International Airport (KLIA), Putrajaya, Cyberjaya and Petronas Twin Towers were for his personal glory.

He said the projects are for the country, implemented without wasting public funds and not jeopardising the country's financial position.

"Even though we built KLIA, Putrajaya, Cyberjaya, Twin Towers, our financial position was still strong, so much so that even after being attacked we didn't need to borrow. We are able to rehabilitate our country's economy on our own and we still have enough money.

"It means that even though the project is big but we have the capability to implement it. So if we can afford it, we are not wasting public funds," he said.

He said international experts also acknowledged Malaysia's strong financial position that whatever development carried out would not jeopardise its financial performance.

Asked about his constant reminder to the people on the importance of maintaining the country's independence, Dr Mahathir said the people needed only to look at a country in the region where its leader was forced to resign after surrendering its economic power to an international financial body.

"We see a high ranking official of an international institution, standing arms-folded, watching a leader of an independent country signs something that will cause his country to surrender its economic power to the body," he said.

He said the disintegration of the country concerned was also not of its wishes but of others, meaning outsiders were also in control of its politics.

"If we are not careful, if we give in to outsiders, if we are not efficient in managing our country's economy, there is the possibility that they will offer assistance with conditions.

"At that time, we will lose power, starting with economy. Then they will insist so and so cannot become minister, prime minister. In fact, there's an attempt by a vice-president who came to Malaysia and asked Malaysians to topple the government," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it showed how snobbish they were, asking people of another country to overthrow an elected government through illegal means and demonstrations.

"This shows the dangerous situation we are in," he said.

He also said the globalisation as interpreted by the west is not correct because it only benefits only developed nations and could lead to re-colonisation of countries in Southeast Asia and Africa.

Dr Mahathir said everyone including the younger generation should defend the honour of the race and country.

He said they did not know how humiliated it was to be colonised.

"They have a special place for themselves. We can't go in there. I've seen people being slapped by a Japanese sentry for not according him respect. I've also seen a Thai soldier kicked an old man riding a bicycle for not stopping when the national anthem was played.

"All this saddens me and I don't like to be humiliated by anyone. To avoid this, we must develop this country strong enough to defend itself even economically," he said.

Dr Mahathir was confident that the younger generation would continue the Vision 2020 "but we must ensure they are not instigated. Whenever we have the opportunity to bring progress to our race, there will be people who become an obstacle.

"Alhamdulillah. We succeed in bringing the majority of our people, majority of our youths are aware of their responsibility for the future, to continue efforts we started since independence."

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