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Mahathir-Values

MALAYSIA WANTS TO MAINTAIN ASIAN VALUE SYSTEM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- Malaysia wants to maintain the Asian value system and focus on good education despite striving to become a fully developed country by the year 2020, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said Malaysia has its own definition of being developed and it was not the same as Western definition.

"We want to have the same wealth, same technical capabilities, skills in management and administration as other developed countries. But at the same time, we want to maintain our Asian value system and good education as this helps us to have a common objective, to have faith in our ability," he said.

In his article in Japan's Mainichi Daily News yesterday, Dr Mahathir said that a Malaysian was now attempting to sail around the globe by himself and the people were thrilled with his adventure every day.

"They feel a sense of pride, which is good for the nation," he said, referring to Azhar Mansor who is attempting to be the first person to sail solo around the world non-stop on a new east-west-east route.

Dr Mahathir's article in the newspaper's Opinion/Analysis page entitled "Dr Mahathir's World Analysis" is published on the first Monday of each month in both its Japanese and English editions as well as through the Internet.

Dr Mahathir however said that Malaysia also have problems just like the developed countries, such as the "lepak" syndrome which means young people roaming around aimlessly, doing nothing, but just watching people passing by.

He said as the country progresses, such things were bound to happen and what was important was to keep the youth continuously excited and active.

Dr Mahathir said moving goals was one way of doing this.

"If you achieve one goal, make another one. When you think there is nothing more to achieve, you will die spritually. It is necessary to be chasing after a target to be alive and excited," he said.

He said he was worried that the Malaysians do not want to do hard work and instead give them to the foreigners.

"For example, some say that if Indonesians work in our plantations, we can pay less to them. But once you allow that to happen, eventually they will take over. We will be so dependant on them that we cannot do anything ourselves," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said he believed in the importance of family values, including the extended family.

"Family gives a reason for living. I cannot imagine a person without a family. Family sort of anchors you to life. Otherwise, you will be floating without any base," he said.

The prime minister said his family was very important to him.

"I like the office to be near my house, so that I can be close to my family. It takes me only five minutes to go home, so I always have lunch there," he said.

He said his children are grown-ups now and have separate homes but they still get together quite often.

Dr Mahathir said that his wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, is a good partner and gives him full support.

-- BERNAMA

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