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Mahathir-Sacrifices

MALAYSIANS HAVE HELPED OVERCOME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the country has managed to overcome its economic problems due to the people's patience and sacrifices and their confidence and support for the government.

He said that even though the country was facing an economic crisis, the people generally chose to maintain unity and racial harmony.

"This has enabled the government to focus fully on efforts to revive the economy," he said in a loyalty pledge on behalf of the people and the government at the investiture in conjunction with the birthday of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong at Istana Negara, here.

Dr Mahathir said that the people's confidence and support for the government was greatly appreciated.

He said that a lesson to be learnt from the economic crisis was that the country need to take a firm stand and be confident in its ability and capability.

The prime minister said that it was this firm stand and confidence which enabled the country to refrain from seeking the assistance of international bodies like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to overcome the nation's economic problems.

"We also realise that to succeed, we must be bold to try out something we feel could benefit the people and the country even if such measures have never been carried out by others," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that to achieve full economic recovery, all quarters especially the private sector should play a more effective role especially in continuing to activate productive economic sectors like construction, manufacturing and infrastructure development.

He said that the cooperation between the private and public sectors, the workers and their trade unions was essential because without smart partnership, the country would not be able to achieve high economic growth like before.

"The government, will, on its part, ensure that all allocations for development projects are spent according to schedule to help expedite economic recovery," he said.

The government would also continue to reduce bureaucracy frequently linked to delays in the implementation of development projects, he said.

The prime minister also gave an assurance to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong that full cooperation would be given by the government and all cabinet ministers to him and the Raja Permaisuri Agong in carrying out their duties in line with the principles and requirements under the system of constitutional monarchy.

-- BERNAMA

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