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Mahathir-Moderate

MODERATION AND DEMOCRACY KEY TO MALAYSIA'S SUCCESS - DR M

JOHOR BAHRU, May 20 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight Malaysia will continue to progress if the people maintained their moderate attitude and exercised their democratic right to choose a strong and efficient government.

The prime minister said Malaysians must also remain hardworking, be disciplined and not be influenced by outsiders and people with vested interests who incite hatred.

These attributes are the key to the progress and success of the country since it achieved independence, he said at a dinner at the official residence of the Johor menteri besar in conjunction with his two-day visit to the state.

The "Pertemuan Perdana" (Prime Meeting) was attended by about 10,000 people comprising members of Umno and other Barisan Nasional component parties, civil servants and the public.

"Just after independence, we were not rich but, perhaps by chance, we found a formula that enabled us to develop which is awareness," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the moderate attitude, especially among Malays and other Bumiputeras, brought about unity.

The Chinese and Indian communities too helped to strengthen national unity as they too did were against extremism, he said.

"Moderation is the main factor for the country's progress. Therefore, retain it because it is the formula for achieving success," he said.

Dr Mahathir said cooperation among the communities through moderation practised by the Barisan Nasional had brought about political stability in Malaysia, with no riots having taken place due to politics.

He said the people should not have hatred towards Malaysians and foreign investors because of their wealth.

"When the wealthy people spend their money, for instance to build palaces, others like contractors and workers too profit," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia, through measures introduced by the government, had succeeded in overcoming the economic downturn without having to bow down to foreigners because the people had given strong support to the government.

-- BERNAMA

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