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Mahathir-BN

MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE BY THE BN, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Barisan Nasional (BN) needs to continue to be in power as more has to be done to develop the country especially in this age of Information Technology (IT).

"We have much to do...not greed to hold on to power forever but we have a vision. We have a huge responsibility...we cannot neglect this responsibility," he said.

The nation should not be satisfied with its successes because "we are entering a very challenging information technology age", he said when launching a motivation camp organised by the BN Wanita movement, here.

"The information age requires an approach and thinking different from that of the past and present...we need to change our perception altogether towards our environment, society, the way we rule and the way we do business," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that "it is most vital for the BN to win and form a government after the coming general election".

"The reason is that we are in the process of developing our country...our vision is become an industrialised nation on the same level as the other industrialised nations in the world," he said.

He said: "Our aim...our present aim is to be an industrialised nation by the year 2020.

"Much has to be done to develop the nation...to equip the people with knowledge, efficiency, capability in all fields including the professional and business fields.

"All this, we know, could only be accomplished through the BN," said Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir said it does not mean that others could not do it, but the BN had the experience and efficiency to continue with the development being implemented.

The prime minister told a news conference later that "everybody knows that we are leading...development of a country is not a one-day affair, it takes a long time.

"We have been ruling this country for 42 years and we have come to this stage of development and made very good progress. Unfortunately, we have not yet become a fully developed country," he said.

Certain parts of the country are now fully developed, he said, citing an example when delegates to the recently-concluded Multimedia Supercorridor-International Advisory Panel (MSC-IAP) meeting were taken for a tour.

According to Dr Mahathir, they said "this is a developed country" after seeing Kuala Lumpur, Cyberjaya, Putrajaya and other developed areas.

"But there are other parts of the country like in Jeragan which is not fully developed where, according to PAS, people stay in makeshift huts.

"It is not true, of course, but we are concerned about our people and we want to work for them and they know in order to work for them we have to develop the country, make it wealthy and collect taxes and then help the poor," he said.

-- BERNAMA

GM RM